How to Study Economics:

**Instructor’s Approach:** Before presenting each major topic (it can be a subchapter or one or more chapters), I will try to create a “picture” that shows:

- Where we have been in the course,
- Where we are, and
- Where we are going.

The “picture” might pertain to one or more class periods. But, it basically sets up our **objectives, and my expectations from you**, regarding the material of that section.

For each major topic, we will:

- Establish “why” before “what”
- Move from simple to complex ideas
- Move from familiar to unfamiliar concepts
- Use multiple languages (words, diagrams, and symbols)
- Move from concrete (questions or situations) to abstract (theory, concept, formula, or generalization)

**Students:** While each student has a different study method, the following methods have been proven effective for most. This course (economics in general) is not difficult if the student keeps up with the material. The primary source of problems is putting off studying and reviewing until some later date. Since the material is cumulative (that is, it builds on what has gone on before), the student who does this may find the piled up material incomprehensible and end up doing poorly on tests. To avoid this, you may want to read and follow the summary below:

1. **Do not memorize the concepts.** Try to **TRANSLATE AND WRITE DOWN** in your own “language.” Doing this, you will gain conceptual understanding of the material.
2. **Read with paper and pencil.** As you read, copy down new terms or concepts, leave some blank space, as you continue reading write down your understanding/explanation of the concept in the blank space and/or at the margin of the textbook.
3. Before the material is covered in class, skim over each chapter by reading:
   - The introduction first,
   - The section and subsection heading or title,
   - The conclusion or summary of the chapter, and
   - Then, read the chapter from start to finish.
4. Go over the assigned homework practice pertaining to the chapter. Take notes of your difficulties with the material.
5. **Within 8-10 hours** after the material is covered in the class, spent 15-30 minutes to review your notes and “fill in the blanks.” This is very good for understanding and retention of the material.
6. **Within the same week,** rewrite (or copy) your class notes for completion and cross-reference with your text. At this point, carefully read the text and notes for comprehension. This is the most effective for long-term retention.
7. Do your reading a few pages at a time.
8. Use the Aplia site, the Menkiw Xtra site, the end-of-chapter problems, and the study guide to solve as many problems as possible.
9. Practice graphs, tables, and problems outside the class.
10. Finally, study with classmates. Consider forming a study group of 2-4 persons. This is particularly beneficial to those who learns by talking, interacting, seeing, and sensing.