Taking Notes in History Class

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Figuring Out What is Crucial to Your Instructor

Aka, “What information will I be tested on?”
Look at your textbook!

- Pay attention to key terms or chapter recaps in your textbook
- Note where the textbook and your instructor overlap
Outlines or Buzzwords

- Instructor give you a lecture outline? Write it down!
- You can go back and organize your notes later
- Listen for and take notes around buzzwords, such as:
  - Key
  - Revolutionary
  - “Changed how we think”
  - Fundamental
  - Especially
Know your professor’s style

- Do they repeat definitions of key terms? Write those down!
- Do they emphasize information on a particular theme over and over again?
How to Take Effective Notes

...without your hand falling off from writing too much
Taking Notes in Class

- Consider developing your own code or shorthand
- Use any posted PowerPoints or lecture outlines to jot down notes
- If necessary, record the lecture so you can review it later
  - Ask permission first!
Reviewing your Notes

- Compare notes with a classmate or two
- Review (and rearrange) your notes outside of class
- Define each key term with the “W” questions:
  - Who
  - What
  - When
  - Where
  - Why (is it important)
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