

LLB: ACADEMIC READING

How to get to grips with your reading.

There is a LOT of reading!



Let's not mess around here - there is a lot of reading in a law degree. It is manageable if you try to stay on top of it, though. By breaking down your reading into sections it can seem less daunting and more achievable. If you're a fan of a to-do list, instead of putting 'do reading' it can seem more manageable to write 'read chapter 1 of...'

Always do the essential reading



As you'll have seen in the lecture and tutorial guides, all courses have a handbook. Within this handbook are lists of reading for each class and topic. These may be core texts which are essential to understanding of that subject, or additional reading to gain further understanding.

Academic texts are not novels



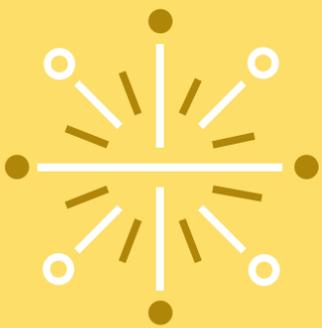
Academic texts are not normally read like novels - from start to finish. They are dipped in and out of, small bits digested and critiqued. It is unlikely you will have to read an entire text from start to finish, and you will instead be guided towards specific sections.

Think about why you're reading



You will read in different ways to get different information. Think about the ways you currently take in information now - you would read a menu differently than an exam text, or a social media post differently from a contract. Think about what you want to get out of your reading - clarification? Understanding? Overview?

Different reading for different reasons



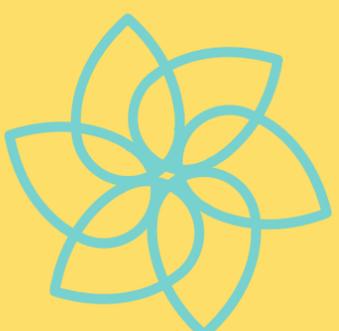
The way you read depends on what you're reading and why. It might be fine to skim read something to gain an overview, or it might require a very close read a few times over to fully understand. You will learn which readings need which approach, and this might take time to practise.

Groups/partners for reading



Some students like to tackle the readings as part of a group, some with one other student and some alone. Without a doubt, you must personally read every essential reading for your courses, but splitting some of the further readings in a group and chatting about them helps some students..

Take regular breaks



Taking a break from your reading can be massively helpful for two main reasons:

1. It allows you to relax and can help you to stay focused and
2. It can allow what you've read to sink in and settle with you a little, and you might find you understand it better with a bit of space away from it.