Sixth College Academic Advising
How to mark your textbook

The key to good textbook marking is being selective and systematic. Develop a system that will help you to sort information into major and minor points. Try some of the following suggestions from the Learning Center at the University of North Carolina.

www.unc.edu/depts/lcweb

- Double underline main ideas. Natural selection is the primary cause...
- Single underline supporting ideas. Gene mutation comes from...
- Write cue words in the margins. Simmel Simmel's fundamental belief...
- Write “e.g.” next to examples e.g. One example of this is...
- Use small circled numbers to indicate when ideas, arguments, examples, etc. are enumerated in a passage. A variety of reasons for this change…
  ○ Industrial Revolution…
  ○ population increase…
  ○ rise of the middle class…
- Use a vertical bracket for three or more important lines. primary cause…
  including the…
  and finally the…
- Use a series of asterisks to indicate levels of importance. ***The main cause of the mutation…
  **One reason for this may be…
  *Of some interest…
- Put a question mark in the margin next to a concept you do not understand. ? The Korean war…
  economic disparities…
- If you disagree with a statement, note this in the margin. disagree The further Dante…
  the more we can see that…
- Use the top and bottom margins to record any ideas of your own. Possible that Marx meant…
  Smith argues that Marx…
  the proletariat could…
- Jot down brief summaries in the margins. Meiosis = cell division… Meiosis is the process…