# The Wide World of Study Charts

Study charts are a helpful tool that you can use to see both the major themes of a course (the big picture) and the specific ideas of each theme (the details). Use a study chart to summarize and organize key content and to think analytically about concepts, theories, models, practices, and processes. Study charts encourage flexible thinking, which helps you to recognize familiar materials when it is presented in unfamiliar ways in a test or exam. These charts are also versatile, as you can change the column headings to fit the themes or organization of a course.

1. Start by reviewing the syllabus:
   1. Identify course themes and think about how they connect.
   2. Review the course organization and think about how ideas are grouped and how they build on each other.
   3. Use these themes or unit labels as headings for a study guide.
2. Next, read through lecture notes and reading notes.
   1. Make notes on details – key terms, definitions, events, processes, etc., and organize them under main themes/divisions of the class.
   2. Use the details to flesh out your study guide – to show how the details build your understanding of the main themes.

Making study charts is a good practice for study, but charts are also good tools for review. Cover up the first column to see if you can identify what concept or theme the details or application relate to, or cover up the explanation and see if you can explain the concept without referring to the chart.

## Sample Study Chart

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Concept | Key Terms | Explanation | Theorist | Application | Connections |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Philosophy, Politics, IDST, Sociology, Psychology

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Concept/Theory | Key Theorist | Main Ideas | Key Terms | Themes |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Concept/Theory | Key Terms | Explanation | Example | Application/Significance |

## History

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Module | Time Period/ Region | Major Events | Key Terms | Connections to themes |

## Business Admin

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Concept/Skills | Main Theorist | Historical Context | Main Ideas | Workplace Application |

## English

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Text | Author/Context | Key Characters/ Events | Key quotations | Themes |

## Biology/Anatomy

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| System | Organ | Structure | Function | Looks like/ Connected to |