Academic Reading

**What is academic reading? Academic reading enables students to:**

* obtain skills and knowledge to join the debate undertaken by the scholars in their discipline
* derive an understanding of the major issues in thier field
* acquire an awareness of the major developments in their discipline
* deepen their understanding about a topic or concept that was introduced in class

**Types of reading texts**

* Specialised academic books
  + Written for academic or professional audience and deal with technical or academic topics
* Edited collections
  + Deal with a specific topic and each chapter is written by a different person
* Journal articles
  + Contain articles on specialised academic topics written for academic or professional audiences
* Research reports
  + Describe how and why a piece of research was done and discuss results and their significance (Brick 2011, pp. 76-83)

**What is effective reading?**

At the university, you will be expected to read widely and critically. You cannot read cover to cover and still keep up with your reading load. One way of approaching your reading is the ‘4-S System’. This system helps you decide which texts you should spend time reading and which you should leave aside (Brick 2011, p. 81-83)

**Studying   
(allows you to read the selected text efficiently)**

* **Get an overview of the topic**
* **Find specific information about the topic**
* **Identify what different writers have said about the topic**
* **Identify how these different positions relate to each other and strengths and weakness**

**Selecting   
(allows you to identify main points and the evidence used)**

* **Use the introduction and conclusion to identify the position presented or the problem that is being examined**
* **Use topic sentences to identify the way the argument develops, the main points and evidence used**

**Skimming   
(allows you to identify main points and the evidence used)**

* **Use the introduction and conclusion to identify the position presented or the problem that is being examined**
* **Use topic sentences to identify the way the argument develops, the main points and evidence used**

**Searching   
(allows you to identify what the text is about)**

* **Use title, the description of the book on the back cover, table of contents and abstract to get a general idea**
* **Use headings and sub-headings to identify major aspects of topics**
* **Use any tables, graphs, diagrams for more info**