

Semester on a Page

Fall 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>September 1</u> Classes begin	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Add/Drop ends	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	<u>October 1</u>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Midterms	12 Midterms	13 Midterms	14 Midterms	15 Midterms	16 Recess
17 Recess	18 Recess	19 Recess	20 Recess	21 Recess	22 Recess	23 Recess
24 Recess	25 Classes resume P/D/F begins	26	27	28	29	30
31	<u>November 1</u>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 P/D/F ends	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Holiday recess begins	24	25	26	27
28 Holiday recess ends	29 Classes resume	30	<u>December 1</u>	2	3	4
5	6 Last day of classes	7 Reading Period begins	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Reading Period ends Dean's Date	15 Final Exams begins	16	17	18
19	20	21 Final Exams ends	22	23	24	25

READING PERIOD (Dec 6–Dec 14)~DEAN'S DATE (Dec 14)~FINALEXAMS (Dec 15–Dec 21)
 WINTERSESSION (Jan10–Jan23)

Academic Planning Guidelines: Using the Course Syllabus to Organize Your Learning

1. Use the syllabus to familiarize yourself with the instructor's objectives and the key themes and concepts of the course in order to stimulate your prior knowledge. Use these to guide notetaking, reading, and studying.
2. Understand the expectations of the professor and how you will be evaluated. Tailor your learning methods to the kinds of knowledge and skills you are expected to demonstrate.
3. Put into your calendar the most crucial dates/deadlines for the course (i.e. midterms, papers, presentations, final projects, final exam) and other critical commitments.
4. If a number of crucial dates converge, set personal deadlines prior to actual due dates so that you can complete all assignments on time. Plan backwards from these dates and deadlines. Mark dates when you will BEGIN your tasks. Create your own intermediate "due dates" if possible.
5. Note course reading assignments and try to stay on schedule. Devote at least some time to each class on a regular basis—it is easier to keep up than it is to catch up. (Make personal deadlines to stay on top of the reading and other tasks. Consider utilizing the Weekly Planner Template located on our [Resources, Handouts and Advice for Undergraduates](#)¹ webpage.)
6. After methodically planning for success, follow your plan and continue to use the syllabus as a road map for the semester. Refer to the weekly topics in your course syllabi on a regular basis to guide your reading, notetaking and studying. Use Principedia to get class-specific advice.
7. Attend an [Advanced Academic Strategies Workshop](#)² on time management, efficient reading and notetaking, exam prep, overcoming procrastination and other topics.
8. Meet with a McGraw Learning Consultant to adjust and improve your plan as needed and to develop a strategic approach to any one—or all of— your courses.
9. Visit our [Learning Strategies Consultations](#)³ webpage for further information and to schedule a consultation.

¹ <https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/undergraduates/resources-handouts-advice>

² <https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/undergraduates/academic-strategy-workshops>

³ <https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/undergraduates/learning-strategy-consultations>