**Tips for Dealing with Difficult Content in Lectures**

Some of the lectures you attend at university will be challenging and you will need to work hard to understand them. Here are a few tips to help you.

1. Buy a good subject-specific dictionary to help you with new vocabulary. Keep vocabulary lists and try to learn some of the new words.

2. Read the lecture slides and handouts in advance to give you clues about the content.

3. Work out where the lecture fits in with the other lectures for this module. How does the content link to what you have learned so far?

4. Keep the purpose of the lecture in mind. For example, is it describing research? Or is it a literature review? Is it outlining a key theory? Is it critiquing or building on another theory? If you know the purpose you will be clearer about which part is causing you difficulty.

5. Try to locate the main points of the lecture. Focus very hard on the introduction and conclusion as there will be strong clues here.

6. Work through complex concepts and try to establish the meaning by taking notes in shorter sentences with simpler words.

7. Identify the linking words (e.g. however, nevertheless, so, therefore, etc.) so that you can grasp the overall direction the lecture is going in.

8. Make sure you are concentrating to your maximum. You could do this by sharing the note taking with a friend and taking it in turns to focus and then rest.

9. Check if the lecture is going to be recorded. Listen again, if possible, with a friend so you can discuss the difficult sections.

10. If all else fails ask your lecturer. You may find that you are not the only one struggling.

11. If you find that lectures are getting to be a serious problem for you, contact your Student Learning Adviser to talk things through.