Ph.D Skimming

(adapted from Mooney & Cole, Learning Outside the Lines)

| Purpose Time reading, | Discuss a little or drop the name. 5 minutes on the way | Discuss more, and not sound like a fool. 20 minutes over lunch. | Discuss intelligently, outline a paper, mention in an exam. 1 hour late the night before | Write about the book in a paper, an exam or serious discussion. 3 hours in the library over |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| and how spent | | | class. | the weekend. |
| | 10 01055. | All of column 1 plus: | All of column 2 plus: | All of column 3 plus: |
| Steps | Read the title. Read chapter titles, or section titles within a chapter. Summarize topic aloud in 1 sentence. Remind yourself of the topic for this day's class. Remind yourself of this week's topic. Guess: Why was this book assigned? | Read introduction (especially last 2 paragraphs) and conclusion (especially first 2 paragraphs) of chapters. Identify the main point they have in common. Highlight the main point and flag the page. This is the thesis. Restate thesis in one sentence. Read entire table of contents. Guess: How do chapters develop the thesis? | Read introduction (especially last 2 paragraphs) and conclusion (especially first 2 paragraphs) of each chapter. Write questions & comments in margins and a summary of each chapter's main point in one sentence. Identify how these chapters develop the book's thesis. Look at any charts or diagrams. Guess what details support the thesis of each chapter. | Take notes about themes & arguments as you read. Read first 2 and last sentences of every paragraph. Identify topic of each paragraph. Answer: How does each paragraph support the chapter's thesis? |