

The following overview is modified from Perusall's description of its service (taken August 18, 2021), with details relevant to our course.

Perusall helps you **learn faster** by collaboratively annotating the readings and communicating with your classmates. Collaboration gets you help whenever you need it, makes learning more fun, enables you to help others (which research shows is also a great way for you to learn), and helps the instructor make class better by emphasizing information that you need.

If you have a question or information to share about a passage in the readings, highlight the text and type in a comment as an annotation. You can also respond to a classmate's annotation in threads (Facebook style) in real time or upvote questions you find helpful. Good annotations contribute to the class by stimulating discussion, explaining your thought processes, helping others, and drawing attention to good points. If a particular classmate's point is relevant, you can explicitly "mention" them and they will be immediately notified, even if not presently signed on.

Unless stated otherwise, your assignments will be graded using a *holistic* approach. In general, the following behavior will result in a higher score, and you must contribute at least 1 thoughtful question/comment to receive credit:

- Contributing thoughtful questions and comments to the class discussion, spread throughout the entire reading ([see some examples](#))
- Breaking the reading into chunks (instead of trying to do it all at once)
- Reading all the way to the end of the assigned reading
- Posing thoughtful questions and comments that elicit responses from classmates
- Answering questions from others
- Upvoting thoughtful questions and helpful answers