Approaching your reading lists

Student 1
Erm, some of our supervisors actually, erm, and our lecturers tend to put like asterisks on more important texts. So they'll put two asterisks on an essential text, one asterisk on something quite useful and nothing on what is essentially optim… optional reading. Erm, personally, and I know this is very rare, I try to read every single source all the way through. But I ca... I can personally say it's not necessary and most people don't and they'll do just as well without because, erm, even for non-essential texts if you read the conclusion, erm, and introduction, and just get a feel for what it's about, that's more than fine. But it's important to read the essential texts all the way through.

Student 2
Some supervisors put … in fact most supervisors will say this is sort of a general good place to start and they'll try to … I mean I'll never read full books but the relevant chapters or pages. Erm, and then with the rest 'cos they do often give you quite a lot, erm, and at first it was overwhelming but I… I mean I read what's easily available so online articles I quite often read. Erm, and maybe works by authors I've heard of or they come up a lot, I try to read that. Erm. Yeah I've I never read the whole thing as I think that's very [laughing] unachievable.