Explaining subject reading lists
(English; Medicine; Human, Social and Political Science)

Student 1
Well I think this is quite subject based for English you are given a general primary reading list, so just choose what books I want to do, it usually helps to choose books from that reading list, coz that’s your supervisor or your DOS will, your DOS will be familiar with those books, and they can talk about them more easily. But when it comes to secondary reading, that’s just a suggestions, if you, if you’re reading, some 18th century novel and you actually find the subject of hands fascinating, you don’t have to follow the reading, the secondary reading that your supervisor suggested if its got nothing to do with it, you know it’s completely up to you, to sort of follow your interests, and discover what you want, and that is so liberating.

Student 2
So medicine we don’t have a reading list as such, the lecturers often give us references at the end of lecture handout that we get given, and its references to papers, reference to textbooks with overall reading and that’s if you have time and are particular interested in that area, then I may look at them. If I am asked to write an essay I might go there for a bit of extra information. I often use textbooks for diagrams, but the bulk of the information in my subject is just given to you, and you can build on it as you see fit, but you are not necessarily expected to because there is so much information already.

Student 3
I think it depends on the subject. For me, for my international relations paper, everything, most of it is online because they’re all sort of journal articles, I find it all on Jstor or on other databases. Whereas for politics it’s really text based, so the originals are really important to read, and I think when you are going through 600 pages, you need that in your hand so for that paper it is much more print.