

Syllabus

Psy 330 Thinking Spring 1991

1.0 Goal

Our goal is to improve your thinking skills. We try to do this in two ways. One is to inform you about what psychologists have learned about thinking and to acquaint you with techniques based on this knowledge. The second way is to provide you with exercises in applying these techniques. The exercises will be in the form of four short papers which apply the tools you will be learning to specific issues, claims, or problems.

2.0 Catalog Information

Psy 330 Thinking TLN 2072 03 Credits
Approved for Social Science group
8:00-9:20am UH 150 Columbia

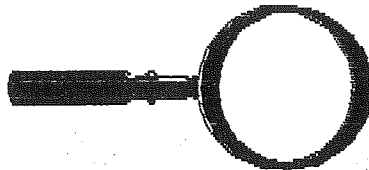
3.0 Instructors

Instructor: Ray Hyman, 323 Straub, 64910
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:30pm
F 1:00-2:30pm

TA: Michelle Harris-Peterson
492 Straub, 64964 ext 21
Office Hours: TBA

4.0 Text

Halpern, D.F. (1989) Thought and knowledge: an introduction to critical thinking (2nd Edition). Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.



5.0 Requirements

Exercises: The exercises consist of four short papers. The first three papers should be 2 to 3 pages in length. The last paper should be 3-5 pages long. Each exercise will apply the textbook's framework to an assigned example.

Examinations: Both the Midterm [April 30, 1991] and the Final Examination [Tuesday, June 4, 1991 @ 8:00 am] will consist of multiple choice items.

Research Participation: The Psychology Department requires students in this course to participate as subjects in three psychology experiments. However, you will be given the option of using this requirement in the place of one the first three exercises. In other words, if you do the first three exercises you do not have to participate in the research requirement. If you participate in the research requirement, you only have to do two of the first three exercises.

6. Grading

You can receive up to a total of 200 points in the course. Your grade will be based on your total number of points. The points can be earned in the following ways:

Exercises: You can earn up to 50 points for the set of four exercises. Each of the first three exercises is worth up to 10 points each. If you substitute the research participation for one of your first three exercises, you can earn 10 points for that participation by submitting a one-page description of what you learned from your participation. The fourth exercise is worth up to 20 points.

Examinations: The midterm is worth up to 50 points and the final examination is worth up to 100 points¹

7. Important Considerations

Because of the size of the class and of limited person power: 1) late exercises will receive no credit; 2) no makeups will be given; 3) no incompletes will be allowed.

¹ The number of points for each examination will not necessarily equal the number of questions. For example, if the midterm consisted of 100 questions, each correct answer would be worth one-half point. We have not yet determined the exact number of questions in each examination.

Course Calendar and Assignments

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Mar 28	Paranormal Metal Bending	Ch 1/Exercise 1
Apr 2,4	Astrology and Phrenology	Ch 3:Language
Apr 9,11	Sherlock Holmes, Houdini	Ch 4: Logic Exercise 1 due Exercise 2 given
Apr 16,18	Is it worth \$4,000 to learn to levitate?	Ch 5: Arguments
Apr 23,25	Piltown Man	Ch 6: Hypotheses Exercise 2 due
Apr 30	Review	
May 2	MIDTERM	Bring #2 pencils
May 7,9	Game Shows and Gambling Scams	Ch 7: Probability Exercise 3 given
May 14,16	Dowsing, Alternative Healing, The Indian Rope Trick	Ch 8: Decisions Exercise 3 due Exercise 4 given
May 21,23	Clever Hans, The Face on Mars	Ch 9 Problem- Solving
May 28,30	Einstein, Leverrier	Ch 10 Creativity Exercise 4 Due
June 4	FINAL EXAM 8:00 AM	Bring #2 pencils

