

M & Wed, 8:30–9:50 AM  
Office hours: by appointment only  
**PSYCHOLOGY 330 – THINKING**  
Instructor: Dr. Catrin Rode  
[crode@uoregon.edu](mailto:crode@uoregon.edu)

GTF:  
Straub 445  
Office hours:

**Description:** The Psychology of Thinking will be introduced by many examples and class exercises. We will discuss thinking in certain and uncertain environments. Typical failures in everyday thinking and reasoning will be described. Inter-individual differences in performance will also be explored.

**My goals for this class are: 1) to give you theoretical and empirical knowledge of the principles of thinking and problem solving; and 2) to teach you how to apply those principles to real life problems. You will learn to evaluate your own and other peoples' reasoning processes critically.**

This class requires willingness to participate in classroom exercises.

**Textbook:** Ian Robertson's Types of Thinking, Routledge/Tyler & Francis  
(One copy is available at the Course Reserves at Knight Library.)

The class is based on this textbook. However, sessions will go beyond the book and will cover other topics that are not included in the textbook. So:

**ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

Course material will be posted on blackboard, so if you missed a class you may use the lecture notes on blackboard. Please note that quiz questions may be referring to material just presented in class!

**\*Note regarding GTF:** the GTF will be responsible for most logistic details of the course (e.g., grading, anything to do with blackboard, copies and handouts, etc.). Questions about those aspects of the course should be directed toward the GTF; questions about course content should be directed toward the instructor. **When emailing, please place Thinking as the subject.**

**Schedule**

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**Week 1 (April 2 & 4):**

Introduction into this class  
Thinking as information processing  
Thinking and learning

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**Week 2 (April 9 & 11):**

Fast and slow thinking  
Fast and slow thinking cont.

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**Week 3 (April 16 & 18): PAPER 1 Due**

Thinking in an uncertain world  
Representativeness bias, Availability etc.

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**Week 4 (April 23 & 25):**

Thinking in an uncertain world cont.  
Base rate neglect  
Reasoning

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**Week 5 (April 30 & May 2):**

Thinking about choices (Barry Schwarz lecture)  
Midterm 1

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**Week 6 (May 7 & 9): Paper 2 DUE**

Risk perception  
Rationality in face of disaster

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**Week 7 (May 14 & 16):**

Development of abstract thought  
Are adolescents thinking?

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**Week 8 (May 21 & 23):**

Thinking and intelligence  
Thinking and expertise

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**Week 9 (May 30): PAPER 3 Due**

Thinking and gender  
Thinking and emotion  
Thinking and language

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**Week 10 (June 4 & 6):**

Review  
Midterm 2

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**SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OVER THE COURSE OF THE QUARTER!**

### **Assignments**

**Exams:** There will be two midterms in this class. Each midterm will take about 60 minutes and will start at the beginning of the lecture. After conclusion of the exam the lecture will be resumed.

**Paper assignment:** You will write three short papers

**Topic 1:** Thinking and learning: How processing promotes retention

**Topic 2:** Kahneman & Tversky vs. Gigerenzer controversy

**Topic 3:** Your choice

**In class questions:** Based on the latest research on learning and retention this class will adopt the strategy of frequent quizzing. That means at the beginning of EACH lecture you will be asked three short essay questions that may cover all previously taught content. At the end of each lecture you will answer three short essay questions based on that day's lecture. At the end of each lecture you will turn in these papers. Your grade will depend on the participation in this exercise according to the following scheme:

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% = C

60 – 69% = D

This grade will account for 20% of your final grade.

**If you miss more than two lectures due to illness you will need to provide a doctor's note.**

**Due dates:** see schedule

**Grading:** The two graded midterms account for 50%, the papers for 30% of the final grade, and the in class questions account for 20% of the grade.

**Posting of Grades:** Scores for papers and exams will be posted on blackboard throughout the course. Please do not wait until after final grades are submitted to dispute a grade; keep track of your scores as they are posted, and alert the instructor **in writing** (e-mail is fine) if you think that there has been a mistake in grading.

**Midterms:** Midterms will consist of multiple-choice, fill in blanks, and true/false type of questions. Exams will be closed book. More information on the exams will also be given in class as their scheduled day approaches.

**Missing midterms:** A missed midterm can be made up on finals day. The make up midterm is cumulative.

**Turning in Assignments:** All papers will be submitted through safe assign.

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