

Thinking

PSY 330 Summer Term, 2013

Time/Place: Monday—Thursday, 8:30-10:20 in Mackenzie 214

Instructors: Jordan Livingston (jlivings@uoregon.edu)

Joe Rodini (jrodini@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 3-4, Lewis 229 (Jordan)

Tuesdays (after class to 11), Lillis Cafe (Lecturer)

Wednesdays 1:30-2:30, Buzz Coffee Shop EMU (Joe)

Thursdays (after class to 11), Lillis Cafe (Lecturer)

- **IMPORTANT #1:** For general questions about the course, if your last name begins with **A-J**, **contact Jordan**; if your last name begins with **L-Z**, **contact Joe**. For questions related to lecture, please contact the lecturer for the week. Joe will be teaching Weeks 1 & 4; Jordan will be teaching Weeks 2 & 3.
- **IMPORTANT #2:** If you plan on stopping by office hours, please try to let us know that you are coming AND why so that we can be prepared to assist you.

Textbook: Kahneman, D., *Thinking, Fast and Slow*

All other required readings to be posted on Blackboard

Course Description: “Psychological methods involved in problem solving, complex learning, and various forms of rational and irrational reasoning and belief systems.”

~ UO Course Catalogue

This course examines how psychological science informs understanding of human thought processes in a variety of domains, with a particular emphasis on social thinking. Some of the course will be dedicated to understanding *general* cognition since this underpins the more *specific* types of cognition such as thinking, reasoning, etc. We will also touch upon aspects of critical thinking as means of becoming better thinkers and consumers of information.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week 1: Intro, System 1 & System 2, Applications to Economic Decisions (Joe)

Week 2: Heuristics & Biases, Overconfidence, Critical Thinking (Jordan)

Week 3: Emotion, Self, Regulation, Social Cognition (Jordan)

Week 4: Cooperation/Morality, Language, Creativity/Imagination (Joe)

This is subject to modification depending on how quickly we get through the material. Your understanding is more important to us than some inflexible set of criteria, so if we have to slow down a bit, then no worries.

The amount of candidate topics to cover in this course barely fit into a 10--week term, let alone a 4--week summer term. Hence, we will move fast and cover a lot. Other commitments will be difficult to maintain while taking this course. If you feel you are getting left behind or want some clarification, then we strongly urge you to ask questions in class, send us emails, and/or visit our office hours. We are very much dedicated to assisting you in whatever way we can. It is extremely important to us that you understand the material, so given the time constraints, we have chosen to structure this course as a survey of many psychological domains as opposed to focusing on just a few in depth. That being said...

Attendance is absolutely critical!!!

See above. Burn it into your mind. All evaluation will be done based on information primarily in the lecture, with supplements from the reading. Therefore, you need to attend class to succeed. We are happy to go over various topics as much as you may require, but we only plan to introduce and elaborate key concepts in lecture, as opposed to reiterating these lectures via e-mail and office hours due to missed attendance. So questions and emails such as, "I was gone Tuesday. What did we go over?" will be ignored. You need to attend class. If you cannot attend class regularly then you should drop the course immediately. If you do not attend class regularly then you will undoubtedly fail. No one wants that. (Seriously, we want you all to succeed!) So, please, attend class regularly or drop.

We will provide you with lecture slides, via Blackboard. These slides contain key topics that will be the source of quiz/exam questions, but they will be expanded upon in class via lecture. For this reason, it again is important to attend class lecture to hear the instructor expand upon the slides and to ask any clarifying questions.

Evaluation

As a reminder, this is a 4-week course. We have made efforts to plan assignments to be manageable within this narrow time frame. As a result there will be **no make-up assignments or exams**. If you know that you cannot make either of the exams, you will need to drop the course.

Exams

There will be two exams: one during class at the end of week two (Thursday) and one at the end of week four (**Thursday, 8:00am, Mackenzie 214**) These exams will be multiple choice and short answer, and will cover the material up until the exam date. They will be noncumulative, except in the sense that you'll need to understand earlier material as a foundation for later material.

Quizzes

There will be six quizzes: a quiz will be due every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 11:59PM, except on the day of exams. The quizzes will be completed through Blackboard. You will have 3 attempts at these quizzes. There will be **no late homework quizzes** accepted. As compensation, you will be able to drop your lowest quiz.

Papers

There will be two papers:

Paper 1: Argument critique. To be assigned week 1. Due Monday of Week 3, 8:30am.

Paper 2: Self-reflection. To be assigned week 3. Due Thursday of Week 4, 8:00am.

There will be *no extensions for any reasons*. Late papers will not be accepted.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 3 percentage points of extra credit (added to your final score) by participating in up to 3 hours of ongoing experimental research in the Psychology Department and writing a short 1 paragraph summary of the study **OR** by writing a 2 page paper on a research article of your choice (article must be approved by instructor prior to assignment submission). Either option will be due at the beginning of exam 2.

Participation

To emphasize the importance of attendance, you will be graded on class participation. The majority of this grade will stem from completion of a variety of in-class tasks.

Assignment Summary

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>Week 1</u>		QUIZ 1, 11:59pm		QUIZ 2, 11:59pm
<u>Week 2</u>		QUIZ 3, 11:59pm		EXAM 1, 8:30am
<u>Week 3</u>	PAPER 1, 8:30am	QUIZ 4, 11:59pm		QUIZ 5, 11:59pm
<u>Week 4</u>		QUIZ 6, 11:59pm		EXAM 2 & PAPER 2, 8:00am

Quiz times reflect when the quiz becomes no longer accessible, paper times reflect the latest you can hand them in, and exam times reflect the beginning of the exam.

Grade breakdown

Participation: 10%

Quizzes: 20%

Papers: 30%

Exams: 40%

Grades

Grades will be assigned in the following way:

93 - 100% = A ; 90 - 92.99% = A- ; 87 - 89.99% = B+ ; 83 - 86.99% = B ;

80 - 82.99% = B- ; 77 - 79.99% = C+ ; 73 - 76.99% = C ; 70 - 72.99% = C- ;

67 - 69.99% = D+ ; 63 - 66.99% = D ; 60 - 62.99% = D- 59.99-below= F

We do reserve the right to curve at the end of the course but it is *highly unlikely* that we will do so, so as to attenuate grade inflation. There is no reason why any of you should get a poor grade in this course if you are willing to work. However, if everyone does poorly then it suggests we did a bad job at calibrating the difficulty of the course, we failed in instructing adequately, or everyone is stupid. Since we're good at what we do and you are all brilliant, it is unlikely that a curve will be necessary. And again, the expectation on our end is for you to succeed. Please use our office hours, emails, and questions in class as a resource.

Course Policies

Out of classroom support--e-mail policy

As stated above, we want you to succeed in this course. That being said, we want to be successful in terms of our other obligations, too. It is unfeasible for us to be constantly available via e-mail for this reason. The e-mail policy is as follows: we will return e-mails within 24 hours, with the warning that you should have no expectation to get an e-mail response after 8pm for that night.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Don't do it. Seriously. Don't be that guy or gal. Although we will if necessary, we do not want to kick anyone out of our class, etc. Anyway, as cliché as it may sound, the old saying is true: You are only cheating yourself. We feel we give you plenty of opportunity to learn, so please maintain your dignity.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with us as soon as possible. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Hillary Gerdes, hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu, tel. 346--3211, TTY 346-- 1083) send a letter verifying your disability.

Student Athletes

You must let us know during the first week of classes if you will miss class due to travel with a UO athletic team and require accommodation. ***Requirements for the course will not be relaxed*** for student athletes, however ***minor scheduling accommodations may be made (e.g., taking a quiz a few hours early) if planned well ahead of time.***

Other Students

If you are repeating this class, or have other circumstances that might affect your ability to devote time to the class, please let us know now so we can discuss strategies to promote your success in this course. If you wait until you have problems in the course, it may be too late to salvage your grade, but planning ahead will likely lead to success.

** Syllabus is subject to change.