

**Psych 179S: Thinking
Summer, 2018**

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Course Description

A survey of research findings and theories of how we "think," and their real-life applications. This course fulfills the social science distribution requirement for Yale College, and social science (not core) requirement for Psychology majors at Yale University.

Readings

Readings are on Canvas. They are not required, but can be helpful in better understanding the materials covered during lecture. There is no textbook for the course.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides in PDF are available on Canvas under "Files → Lectures".

Format

This course lasts five weeks. Although this is an online summer course, the expected workload is equivalent to a typical semester-long university class.

For each week, students will watch a series of short lectures that were taped in 2017, as part of an online course. Watching the videos is essential, as they are largely distinct from the readings. Further, the lecture slides do not contain enough text to recreate the lecture if you have missed it. It is impossible to do well in this course without watching all the videos.

Each week, there are two meetings for online discussion and reviews, during the periods of Tuesday and Thursday, 7 – 8:30 PM EST. Class participation is an essential part of this course. Students are expected to attend all sessions and participate (e.g., answer questions in the review sheets, come with specific questions, contribute to discussion). If you miss more than two classes, you will automatically fail the course, regardless of how well you do otherwise.

Students are expected to watch the lectures needed for each online discussion before the online meeting time. In addition, students should have taken quizzes for the portions of the relevant lectures before the online discussion session. (See below for details about quizzes.)

Course Requirements

Exams (69%) There will be two exams during the semester. Each will count for 34.5% of your final grade. Almost all of the information on the exams will come directly from what is presented in the lectures. Exam questions will test both factual knowledge and critical thinking. The exams will be non-cumulative and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions and will cover all lecture materials and videos. The course material should not be too difficult but there is a large amount of information to understand and remember. Don't try to cram at last minute!

Exam 1 will take place **7-9PM EST** on Tuesday, July 17th. Exam 2 will take place **7-9PM EST** on Thursday, August 2nd.

Quiz (15%) There will be a quiz for each lecture given by Professor Ahn (i.e., not the lectures given by the three guest lecturers), with a total of 15 quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes are not open-book, and each set of quiz should be completed within 15 minutes. As long as a student is paying attention to the lecture and understands the materials as they are covered, the student should be able to receive a full score without any prior preparation. All questions are about straightforward, factual information covered in the lecture, and they are mostly true/false judgments or multiple-choice questions. Each quiz will count for 1% of your final grade. You will receive immediate feedback upon submitting your answers. Quizzes will be administered on Canvas, and you may take them any time you want as long as it is before the online discussion session that covers the relevant lectures (see schedule below for the quiz numbers to be taken). Any quiz that is not completed before the online discussion session will be considered being late and there will be 10% deduction of the score for each late day.

Participation (16%) There will be eight discussion sections (worth 2% each). To receive full credit, we expect you to 1) be promptly online at the section starting time, 2) have completed the viewing of the assigned lectures, 3) have taken the assigned quizzes, 4) have attempted answer questions on the review sheets, and 5) participate in the discussion.

Other policies

Make-up Exams. A make-up exam will be permitted only in the event of extraordinary circumstances. Make-up exams must be scheduled within one week of the missed exam.

If you have any questions about or disagreement with answers on quizzes, take a screenshot of the question or take a note of the question when the quiz is completed, and e-mail the instructor, Cc-ing your TF. If your argument is convincing, a partial / full credit can be granted. Carefully describe your argument in your e-mail because you will have only one attempt to present it unless you are bringing up a new issue.

If you have any petition or questions about grading of exams, please wait at least 24 hours after receiving the grade. This will allow time for students to critically and fairly think about the issue without an immediate emotional bias. Any inquiries about grading submitted before the 24-hour wait period will not be considered. Carefully describe your argument in your initial e-mail because you will have only one attempt to present it unless you are bringing up a new issue.

All communications regarding grading issues should be submitted in writing (such as e-mails) in a formal and thoughtful manner. We will not honor casually and hastily written e-mails to the instructor or the TF (such as an e-mail starting with “Hey”), because we treat them as a product of “System 1” (to be covered in class). As long as you are respectful in your correspondences, we will do our best to resolve any of your concerns.

Academic Honesty

The exams and quizzes are closed-book. Obviously, use of any written materials or any form of collaboration is forbidden. Any case of suspected cheating will be referred to the Executive Committee of Yale College. The consequences can be severe, including suspension. In my experience, many episodes of cheating are due to stress and panic. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, *there are always better options than cheating*. If you are having problems in the course, you should always feel comfortable talking to me or to the TFs.

		Lectures to watch	Readings	Quiz #
3-Jul	Tue	1. introduction, 2. Decision-making, 3. Decision-making	Baron Ch 10, 11	1, 2, 3
5-Jul	Thu	4. Judgments, 5 judgments	Kahneman (2011), Tversky & Kahneman (1974)	4,5
10-Jul	Tue	6. Bayesian, 7. Rationality, 8. Monkeys	Shafir	6,7,8
12-Jul	Thu	9. thinking about others, 10. self-concept	Epley	9,10
17-Jul	Tue	Exam 1		
19-Jul	Thu	12. Confirmation bias, 14. Language and thought	Confirmation bias, Wolff&Holmes	12,14
24-Jul	Tue	18. problem solving, 19. Creativity	Bassok & Novick, Lubart	18,19
26-Jul	Thu	15. Intelligence, 16. Moral thinking, 20. Deductive reasoning	Pinker, Halpern	15,16,20
31-Jul	Tue	21. Causality, 22. Concepts	Rips, Ross & Spalding	21,22
2-Aug	Thu	Exam 2		

References

- Baron, J. (2000). *Thinking and deciding*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bassok, M., & Novick, L. R. (2012). Problem solving. *Oxford handbook of thinking and reasoning*, 413-432.
- Confirmation Bias. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confirmation_bias
- Epley, N. (2015). *Mindwise: Why we misunderstand what others think, believe, feel, and want*. Vintage.
- Halpern, D. Thinking and Knowledge.
- Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, fast and slow*. Macmillan.
- Lubart, T. (1994). Creativity. *Thinking and Problem Solving*, 289–332.
- Pinker, S. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/13/magazine/13Psychology-t.html>
- Rips, L. (2008). Causality. In Adler, J. E., & Rips, L. J. (Eds.). *Reasoning: Studies of human inference and its foundations*. Cambridge University Press.
- Ross, B., & Spalding, T. L. (1994). Concepts and categories. In *Thinking and Problem Solving*
- Shafir, E., & LeBoeuf, R. A. (2002). Rationality. *Annual review of psychology*, 53(1), 491-517.
- Tversky, A., & Kahneman, D. (1975). Judgment under uncertainty: Heuristics and biases. In *Utility, probability, and human decision making* (pp. 141-162). Springer Netherlands.
- Wolff, P., & Holmes, K. J. (2011). Linguistic relativity. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 2(3), 253-265.