



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת תל אביב
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

Full Syllabus



Course Title Contemporary Problem Solving		Credits
Lecturer Dr. Amir Konigsberg		
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Semester B		
Short Description		
In a world rapidly transformed by artificial intelligence and digital innovation, the most critical skills are those deeply human: critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, deep conceptual understanding, and reasoning from first principles. This course explores foundational journal articles across diverse fields—including philosophy, logic, cognitive psychology, ethics, management, innovation, economics, and leadership—to cultivate these essential capabilities. Through critical engagement with influential academic papers, students will develop analytical rigor, enhance cognitive flexibility, and sharpen their ability to navigate complex problems with originality and clarity.		
Final grade components		
Reading assignments: 30%		
Attendance: 20%		
Final in class exam: 50%		
Course schedule		
Class no. / Date	Subject and Requirements (assignments, reading materials, tasks, etc.)	
Lesson 1:	Introduction	
Lesson 2:	Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" (<i>The Philosophical Review</i> , 1974)	
Lesson 3:	Gilbert Harman, "The Inference to the Best Explanation" (<i>The Philosophical Review</i> , 1965)	
Lesson 4:	Clayton Christensen and Joseph L. Bower, "Disruptive Technologies: Catching the Wave" (<i>Harvard Business Review</i> , 1995)	
Lesson 5:	Peter Drucker, "Managing Oneself" (<i>Harvard Business Review</i> , 1999)	
Lesson 6:	Friedrich Hayek, "The Use of Knowledge in Society" (<i>The American Economic Review</i> , 1945)	
Lesson 7:	Nelson Goodman, "The New Riddle of Induction" (<i>Fact, Fiction, and Forecast</i> , original article 1955)	
Lesson 8:	Edmund Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" (<i>Analysis</i> , 1963)	
Lesson 9:	Tversky, A., & Kahneman, D. (1974). <i>Judgment under uncertainty: Heuristics and biases</i> . <i>Science</i> , 185(4157), 1124–1131.	
Lesson 10:	Johnson, S. G. B., Karimi, A.-H., Bengio, Y., Chater, N., Gerstenberg, T., Larson, K., Levine, S., Mitchell, M., Rahwan, I., Schölkopf, B., & Grossmann, I. (2024). <i>Imagining and building wise machines: The centrality of AI metacognition</i> .	



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	<i>Artificial Intelligence</i> , 310, 103785.
Lesson 11:	Ullmann-Margalit, E. (1978). Title: <i>Invisible-hand explanations</i> . Journal: <i>Synthese</i> , 39(2), 263–291.
Lesson 12:	Frankfurt, Harry G. "On Bullshit." <i>Raritan</i> , vol. 6, no. 2, Fall 1986, pp. 81–100.
Lesson 13:	<u>The Problem with Uniform Solutions to Peer Disagreement</u> Amir Konigsberg <i>Theoria</i> 79 (2):96-126 (2013)

This schedule is tentative and may change as the course progresses

Required course reading

Each lesson's paper **MUST** be read prior to the lesson in which that paper will be discussed. Students must read and learn the paper and be ready to discuss and if needed present the paper.

Optional course reading

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students. In addition, [submitting a written assignment generated by AI in part or in whole without specific permission of the instructor](#) is a form of plagiarism. Using any of the above will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. The Program understands that there are occasions on which it is not possible for students to attend classes and/or unplanned events such as illness and outside commitments can prevent students from reaching campus. For this reason, *if absolutely necessary*, we allow students to miss up to four (4) sessions of each 4-credit course per semester and up to two (2) sessions for each 2-credit course. *These 2 or 4 allowable absences do not need to be authorized by the Liberal Arts office*, but students should inform their instructors as soon as they know they will need to be absent. Note that this allowance *includes* short-term illness, *even with presentation of a doctor's note*. Students who exceed these absences will face a grade penalty, and in extreme cases may not be able to complete the course/submit the final assignment or exam*. Note that individual instructors *are not authorized* to allow any additional absences.

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.^{1*} Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline.

Comments

^{1*}See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details