

SCED330: Teaching Thinking

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Course Duration: 14 weeks (Spring term)

Meeting Time: 3 hours per week, Tuesday 13:00-15:00-Thursday 12:00-13:00

Location: EF116 & NH001

Course Description

This interdisciplinary course explores the nature and development of human thought through the lenses of philosophy, psychology, education, and literature. Students will investigate the emergence of thinking, its historical shaping, and how it can be taught and cultivated. Each unit integrates primary readings, multimedia content, and reflective writing.

Course Components

- Weekly thematic readings (mandatory and optional)
- Multimedia supplements (film clips, interviews, etc.)
- Forum or journal-based reflection tasks
- Final Essay with peer feedback

Course Outline

Unit 1: Origins of Thought and the Human Mind

Readings

- Yuval Noah Harari – *Sapiens* (Ch.2: The Tree of Knowledge)
- Baruch Spinoza – *Ethics* (on mind and body)

Media

- Film: *2001: A Space Odyssey* (first 12 minutes)
- Interview: Michael Tomasello on cognitive evolution (YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZhhJj4vL1M>)

Assignment

Reflection on how thinking emerged biologically and culturally.

Unit 2: Perception, Language and Reality

Readings

- Plato – *Allegory of the Cave*
- Ludwig Wittgenstein – *Philosophical Investigations* (excerpts)

Media

- Short Story: Borges – *The Library of Babel*
(<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015054085074&view=1up&seq=87>)
- Video: 'What is Reality?' by Vsauce (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0ztlIAYTCU>)

Assignment

Forum post on the relationship between language and perception of reality.

Unit 3: Autonomy, Reason and Enlightenment

Readings

- Immanuel Kant – *What is Enlightenment?*
- G.W.F. Hegel – *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Master-Slave dialectic, excerpts)
- Bertrand Russell – *A History of Western Philosophy* (chapters on Kant and Hegel)

Assignment

Essay: What does it mean to think independently? Compare Kant and Hegel.

Unit 4: Modernity and Its Discontents

Readings

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau – *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*
- Karl Marx – *Theses on Feuerbach* & *The German Ideology* (excerpts)
- Adorno & Horkheimer – *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Intro)

Media

- Documentary: *The Century of the Self* (BBC, Episode 1) – <https://vimeo.com/157558515>

Assignment

Forum post: Is modernity liberating or alienating?

Unit 5: The Self, Will and the Unconscious

Readings

- Søren Kierkegaard – *The Sickness Unto Death* (excerpts)
- Arthur Schopenhauer – *The World as Will and Representation* (excerpts)
- Carl Jung – *Man and His Symbols* (Intro)
- Sigmund Freud – *Civilization and Its Discontents* (Introduction)

Media

- Video Essay: *Freud vs. Jung* by Academy of Ideas
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzyoY2GQDI8>)

Assignment

Reflection journal on the tension between rationality and inner drives.

Unit 6: Freedom, Meaning and the Absurd**Readings**

- Friedrich Nietzsche – *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (selected aphorisms)
- Jean-Paul Sartre – *Existentialism is a Humanism*
- Albert Camus – *The Myth of Sisyphus*
- Fyodor Dostoevsky – *Notes from Underground* (selected excerpts)

Media

- Film: *Ikiru* (dir. Akira Kurosawa) – Recommended scenes on meaning and mortality

Assignment

Forum: What is freedom? How do we respond to the absurd?

Unit 7: Thinking about Thinking: Learning and Teaching Thought**Readings**

- John Dewey – *How We Think* (selected chapters)
- Lev Vygotsky – *Mind in Society* (ZPD chapters)
- Ludwig Wittgenstein – *Remarks on the Philosophy of Psychology* (excerpts)
- Paulo Freire – *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (Intro)

Media

- TEDx Talk: Sugata Mitra – *Build a School in the Cloud*
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3jYVe1RGaU>)

Assignment

Final Essay Due: Students select a thinker or theme and apply it to a modern problem or educational context.