

GS1140: Theory of Problem Solving

Syllabus

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Introduction

Instructor

My name is John Steely, and I have been teaching for almost 30 years. I have been primarily a mathematics teacher, but along the way I have taught many other subjects, including leadership, economics, and problem solving. I have worked in the financial sector, retail sector, and information technology sector as well. This is the experience that I will bring to bear on this course, and I hope that you can benefit from my expertise.

Subject

Problem solving is an incredibly valuable skill for an employee in today's world. Take a look at any job description beyond the cashier level, and you will find problem solving in one form or another. The ability to solve problems can determine your success in any field, any career.

Problem solving has many different phases, which we will study in this course. In its simplest terms, problem solving involves the ability to understand the current circumstances, create a plan of action, act on that plan, and evaluate the results. We will be working with a particular heuristic, or system, for solving problems, which is one of many. I encourage you to work with this system until you are comfortable with it; then you can explore others from a position of strength.

Daily schedule

Each week our class will be divided into several pieces. The first piece, which will typically last about 15 minutes, involves a video presentation. The second piece, which will last about 1 hour in most cases, will involve a lecture about a particular part of the problem solving heuristic. The third piece will be an activity designed to improve your problem solving skills, and will last about 45 minutes to an hour. Each even week will have a quiz on the material of the previous weeks, which should take about 15 minutes. Finally, there will be a section about some aspect of arithmetic, last about 45 minutes.

Grading

Gs1140 Problem Solving Theory

Rome Air Development Center



Gs1140 Problem Solving Theory:

Toward a Unified Theory of Problem Solving Mike U. Smith, 2012-11-12 One of the most active fields of educational research in recent years has been the investigation of problem solving performance Two opposing views of current research one suggesting that there are more differences than similarities within different domains and the other stating that there is great similarity lead to a variety of questions Is problem solving a single construct Are there aspects of problem solving performance that are similar across a variety of content domains What problem solving skills learned within one context can be expected to transfer to other domains The purpose of this book is to serve as the basis for the productive exchange of information that will help to answer these questions by drawing together preliminary theoretical understandings sparking debate and disagreement raising new questions and directions and perhaps developing new world views *Problem Solving: Research, Method, and Theory* Benjamin Kleinmuntz, 1975 **How to Solve Problems. Elements of a Theory of Problems and Problem Solving** Wayne A. Wickelgren, 1974 **Problem Solving**, 2001 **Complex Problem Solving** Robert J. Sternberg, Peter A. Frensch, 2014-01-14 Although complex problem solving has emerged as a field of psychology in its own right the literature is for the most part widely scattered and often so technical that it is inaccessible to non experts This unique book provides a comprehensive in depth and accessible introduction to the field of complex problem solving Chapter authors experts in their selected domains deliver systematic thought provoking analyses generally written from an information processing point of view Areas addressed include politics electronics and computers **Problem Solving and Intelligence** Helga A. H. Rowe, 1985 **Theory on Human Problem Solving** Kenneth B. Hird, 1980 *Psychology Of Problem Solving* Gary A. Davis, 1973-04-26 **Problem Solving** S. Ian Robertson, 2001 Problem solving is an integral part of everyday life yet few books are dedicated to this important aspect of human cognition In each case the problem such as solving a crossword or writing an essay has a goal In this comprehensive and timely textbook the author discusses the psychological processes underlying such goal directed problem solving and examines both how we learn from experience of problem solving and how our learning transfers or often fails to transfer from one situation to another Following initial coverage of the methods we use to solve unfamiliar problems the book goes on to examine the psychological processes involved in novice problem solving before progressing to the methods and processes used by skilled problem solvers or experts Topics covered include how we generate a useful representation of a problem as a starting point general problem solving strategies we use in unfamiliar situations possible processes involved in insight or lateral thinking the nature of problem similarity and the role of analogies in problem solving understanding and learning from textbooks and how we develop expertise through the learning of specific problem solving skills Clear up to date and accessible Problem Solving will be of interest to undergraduates and postgraduates in cognitive psychology cognitive science and educational psychology The focus on the practical transfer of learning through problem solving will also make it of relevance to educationalists and

business psychologists *Human Problem Solving* Allen Newell, Herbert Alexander Simon, 1972 The aim of this book is to advance our understanding of how humans think It seeks to do so by putting forth a theory of human problem solving along with a body of empirical evidence that permits assessment of the theory **The Common Points in Recent Theories of Problem Solving** Walter Bowers Pillsbury, **All Life is Problem Solving** Karl R. Popper, 1999 **Problem Solving** S. Ian Robertson, 2016-11-10 The way that we assess and overcome problems is an essential part of everyday life Problem Solving provides a clear introduction to the underlying mental processes involved in solving problems Drawing on research from cognitive psychology and neuroscience it examines the methods and techniques used by both novices and experts in familiar and unfamiliar situations This edition has been comprehensively updated throughout and now features cutting edge content on creative problem solving insight and neuroscience Each chapter is written in an accessible way and contains a range of student friendly features such as activities chapter summaries and further reading The book also provides clear examples of studies and approaches that help the reader fully understand important and complex concepts in greater detail Problem Solving fully engages the reader with the difficulties and methodologies associated with problem solving This book will be of great use to undergraduate students of cognitive psychology education and neuroscience as well as readers and professionals with an interest in problem solving **A theory of mathematical problem solving derived from general theories of directed thinking and problem solving** John Emil Bernard, 1978 **Everyday Problem Solving** Jan D. Sinnott, 1989-01-18 Psychological educational gerontological marketing and other literatures all report recent research in everyday problem solving yet few sources have made these various types of results available in one state of the art volume Everyday Problem Solving makes accessible many of these points of view for all readers coordinates them and provides directions from which to formulate new studies The wide but methodical scope of this work will interest researchers clinicians philosophers marketing specialists administrators artificial intelligence scientists educators guidance counselors and psychologists Undergraduate and graduate students in these fields will also find this an invaluable source The collection of reports includes an examination of models from information processing theory and postformal cognitive developmental theory and an overview of the tasks used in everyday problem solving research Several leading theories including Sinnott's are applied to describe the thoughts and emotions of adults as they solve illstructured problems Reports on applied research include techniques of master teachers the ways adults resolve conflicts consumer behavior academic intelligence the connection of memory to problem solving intervention strategies and the elderly *Psychology of Problem Solving: Theory and Practice* Gary A. Davis, 1973 **Explanation and the Theory of Expert Problem Solving** Rome Air Development Center, 1990 **Theories of Problem Solving and Decision Making. Pt. A** Peer Soelberg, 2023-07-18 In this groundbreaking work Peer Soelberg explores the intricacies of problem solving and decision making By drawing on theories from diverse fields such as psychology philosophy and economics Soelberg presents a comprehensive and compelling

framework that will transform the way you approach decision making This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it This work is in the public domain in the United States of America and possibly other nations Within the United States you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work Scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public We appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

Problem-solving Eleni Makri,2022 The authors of Problem Solving Insights Challenges and Approaches have done a brilliant job of highlighting how the definition and theorizing of problem solving is changing and how this seems to inspire the development of research in resolving problems in current and upcoming years By balancing our theoretical and research assumptions about problem solving with a better awareness of the significance of plenty of other factors contributing to successfully resolving problems individuals teams and communities of practice might possibly use more refined ways through which they can endorse influential transformations during problem solving conditions and eventually generate greater shared value In this excellent new cross cultural Nova edition that grapples with the challenge of writing about the problem solving paradigm the authors have worked hard to blend diverse theoretical and research advances of problem solving approaches in a balanced and visible way It does not only integrate inspiring theory and research but also develops avenues for the future of problem solving as open science and an open innovation field It gives insightful and practical associations addressing many of the most challenging topics that our agency and capacity as problem solvers might entail now and in the time ahead

The Complete Problem Solver John R. Hayes,1981 This book designed for a college course on general problem solving skills focuses on skills that can be used by anyone in solving problems that occur in everyday life Part I considers theory and practice understanding problems search and protocol analysis Part II discusses memory and knowledge acquisition the structure of human memory using memory effectively and learning strategies Part III concerns decision making getting the facts straight the luck of the draw and cost benefit analysis Finally part IV describes creativity and invention cognitive processes in creative acts and how social conditions affect creativity One appendix discusses the use of time while a second appendix concerns probabilities MNS

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