

# 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

**Huangqi Zhang**



## Gs1140 Problem Solving Theory:

**Psychology of Problem Solving**, 1975      **Toward a Unified Theory of Problem Solving** Mike U. Smith, 1991 First Published in 1990 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company      **Problem Solving** Daniel Ellis Berlyne, 1975      **How to Solve Problems. Elements of a Theory of Problems and Problem Solving** Wayne A. Wickelgren, 1974      **Problem Solving: Research, Method, and Theory** Benjamin Kleinmuntz, 1975      **Theory on Human Problem Solving** Kenneth B. Hird, 1980      *Problem Solving*, 2001      *The Common Points in Recent Theories of Problem Solving* Walter Bowers Pillsbury,      **A theory of mathematical problem solving derived from general theories of directed thinking and problem solving** John Emil Bernard, 1978      **Investigating a Proposed Problem Solving Theory in the Context of Mathematical Problem Solving** Nadia Monroe Mills, 2015      *Explanation and the Theory of Expert Problem Solving* Rome Air Development Center, 1990      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

**Problem Solving and Intelligence** Helga A. H. Rowe, 2024-03-08 Originally published in 1985 Problem Solving and Intelligence was the result of the author's efforts to understand the nature of human intelligence and the differences in the cognitive functioning of individuals which we observe again and again The book contains two types of material First it presents an overview of major contributions to the conceptualization and investigation of problem solving and intelligence which was derived from the extensive largely non cumulative literature at the time Second it reports a comprehensive empirical study of the manifestation of intelligence in problem solving The subject matter was at the interface of three traditional areas of psychological inquiry namely the study of cognitive processes individual differences and the characteristics of the stimulus What was innovative is that intellectual performance is investigated in relation to the simultaneous operation of variables from these dimensions The book was intended primarily as a contribution to the understanding and investigation of the nature of intelligent behavior as well as an introduction to intelligence and problem solving Today it can be read and enjoyed in its historical context      Problem Solving Hank Kahney, 1993 Presenting an analysis of problem structures and the strategies used in solving problems this book explores the concept of humans as active processors of information It also introduces a representative selection of different research methods and encourages the reader by means of activities to become a participant in cognitive psychology      **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

**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 Theory of Inventive Problem Solving A. A. Guin, International TRIZ Association, 2009 Problem Solving S. Ian Robertson, 2003-09-02 Part Part One Introduction chapter 1 Introduction to the study of problem solving part Part Two Problem representation and problem solving processes chapter Part Two Introduction chapter 2 Characterising problem solving chapter 3 Problem representation The case of insight part Part Three Analogical problem solving chapter Part Three Introduction chapter 4 Transfer of learning chapter 5 Problem similarity chapter 6 Analogical problem solving chapter 7 Textbook problem solving part Part Four Learning and the development of expertise chapter Part Four Introduction chapter 8 Expertise and how to acquire it chapter 9 Experts novices and complex problem solving chapter 10 Conclusions chapter Answers to questions *All Life is Problem Solving* Karl R. Popper, 1999 **The Theory of Strategic Problem Solving** Elspeth McFadzean, Arthur Money, 1994

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