Overall Course Information

Texts

There are two texts for this course:


We will read all of Gilovich in the first two sections of this course. In the second and third section, we will read the first six chapters of Ross & Nisbett, with Chapter 5 being the principle reason for including the book in this course. Specific reading assignments will be found in each of the three sections.

Assistance

The teaching assistant for this course is Michelle Jetha. Ms. Jetha and Dr. Brooks will be happy to see you before or after class or make appointments for other times. Special tutorial periods will be scheduled in conjunction with tests or assignments. In addition, the e-mail help line will be covered and additional comments will be made in the web discussion groups.

Tests and Grading

The material in this course will be presented and tested in three sections. The test on Section A, covering all material in lectures and assigned reading up to that point, will be given on Thursday, October 2. The test on Section B will be given on Friday, October 31 and will directly cover only the material since the previous test. The test on the last section will be given on the final in a form parallel in length and style to the two term tests. The final will thus consist of two parts, of which is designed as a one hour test. However, you will have three hours to write the final, eliminating any time pressure. We will use the cumulative portion of the final to replace the lowest of the term test marks. If the mark on the cumulative portion is the lowest of the four test marks (A, B, C, cumulative), then it will be dropped. Before each of these tests a set of sample questions will be distributed, and time in class will be provided to discuss them.

There also will be required participation in internet discussion groups. The mark weighting of this participation relative to the test marks will be announced separately for each of the three sections. The overall mark for each of the three sections will be equally weighted to determine your final test mark, which will be 80% of your final mark.

The remaining 20% of your mark will be a project, due in the last section of the course, in which you will apply the material in the course to a special, contemporary topic. This project will involve both generating material to be posted on the course web site and a brief presentation to the class. The details of this project will be provided after the first two weeks of the course.

The grades on the tests and assignments will be converted to numerical marks by the conventional scheme recommended by the University. I reserve the right to adjust final marks if individual circumstances warrant (historically, this has been only upward except in cases of dishonesty).