

# Think101x

## The Science of Everyday Thinking



### Welcome to Think101x



*The Science of Everyday Thinking* is a free online course through edX that's open to anyone. You don't need any previous education or experience, and you can participate as much or as little as you'd like.

We explore everyday thinking: why people believe weird things, how we form and change our opinions, why our expectations skew our judgements, and how we can make better decisions. Topics range from subliminal messages and placebos, to cancer clusters and miracles.

We hope you'll learn to be more curious. Knowing **how** to think is more important than knowing **what** to think.



### JASON TANGEN

Jason is a Senior Lecturer at The University of Queensland. He was originally trained in philosophy and cognition in Canada and moved to Australia in 2004. His research is broadly based on expertise and evidence.



### 12 EASY TO WATCH EPISODES

New episodes will appear each week on a range of interesting topics. Watch them at your leisure, participate in the discussions, and see how much you've learned by taking the quizzes.



### MATTHEW THOMPSON

Matthew is a postdoc at The University of Queensland. He researches the nature of expertise and decision making in fingerprint identification, towards promoting rightful convictions and preventing wrongful ones.



### 1 TO 2 HOURS PER WEEK

It will only take an hour or so to watch the videos, and take the quiz each week. Of course, you're welcome to watch the full length conversations and discuss each episode as long as you'd like!



### EMMA MACKENZIE

Emma is the producer of Think101x. She graduated with a degree in Journalism and Arts majoring in International Relations from The University of Queensland, and has an interest in the evolving world of storytelling.



### LEARN FROM THE BEST

We travelled the world to film 22 incredible conversations with thinkers like Daniel Kahneman, who won the Nobel in economic science, to the MythBusters duo: Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman.

<p><b>EPISODE 1 - A TASTE</b> 2 MARCH 2014</p>	<p>A taste of things to come, a few questions, and information about the course.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 2 - ILLUSIONS</b> 9 MARCH 2014</p>	<p>People often think that the way we see, hear, and remember is like a video camera that reliably captures and stores every detail of our experience. Instead, the way we perceive the world and remember events is, in a very real sense, shaped by the sum of our experiences. As a result, we tend to see what we expect to see.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 3 - KNOW THYSELF?</b> 16 MARCH 2014</p>	<p>Who knows why we do what we do, what's important to us, and how we feel better than ourselves? But it seems that we're largely oblivious to the determinants of our own behaviour, we misjudge how long tasks will take, we think of ourselves as exceptional and unique, and we don't know what makes us happy.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 4 - INTUITION AND RATIONALITY</b> 23 MARCH 2014</p>	<p>In order to improve everyday thinking, we need to understand the difficulties we're operating under and the fact that we can't make fully informed, deliberate decisions on most of the issues we face. We need to understand the shortcuts that people use (and must use).</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 5 - LEARNING TO LEARN</b> 30 MARCH 2014</p>	<p>Improving everyday thinking also involves improving the way we learn and retain information. Unfortunately, people generally have a poor understanding of how they learn and remember. We discuss some evidence-based learning strategies that boost learning and memory.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 6 - THE EXPERIMENT</b> 6 APRIL 2014</p>	<p>In dealing with the complexity of everyday life, we have the same jobs to do as scientists and statisticians: We have to look through noisy data and misleading accidents to see what has happened and what basically is going on. One goal of this course is to make the same principles apply to everyday information.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 7 - FINDING THINGS OUT</b> 13 APRIL 2014</p>	<p>Testing claims and finding things out can be fun, but also empowering. Zeroing in on the source gives us far more control than any other method, and allows us to spend our time and effort on things that produce genuine effects. We discuss prediction problems, the difficulty in changing our mind, and provide some checklist tools to figure out what information is missing.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 8 - EXTRAORDINARY CLAIMS</b> 27 APRIL 2014</p>	<p>Some experiences can be unusual, vivid, and deeply personal. If you experienced something incredible or even supernatural, what would it take to convince you that it was not extraordinary, and may actually be quite common? We discuss the paranormal, coincidences, baloney detection, red flags, fallacies, and advice for distinguishing between fact and fiction.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 9 - HEALTH CLAIMS</b> 4 MAY 2014</p>	<p>We've seen that what we perceive and remember is literally shaped by our experiences and expectations. The placebo effect is another example of this phenomenon. Symptoms improve with treatments that have no active ingredients. We introduce several reasons for this effect along with beliefs that "natural" is better, and perceived risks of vaccination.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 10 - APPLIED THINKING</b> 11 MAY 2014</p>	<p>We apply our thinking to significant topics that affect the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable groups. We discuss the extreme importance of testing potential treatments and measuring the abilities of self-professed experts.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 11 - EXPLOIT THE SITUATION</b> 18 MAY 2014</p>	<p>People are much more likely to explain someone's behaviour in terms of someone's personality than thinking about the situation or their in, which produced their behaviour. We discuss the weakness of personality and the power of the situation.</p>
<p><b>EPISODE 12 - CHANGE THE WORLD</b> 25 MAY 2014</p>	<p>We hear from each of our guests on how to improve everyday thinking. You have the tools to make a real difference. Now let's see what you can do with them.</p>

# VIDEOS

A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

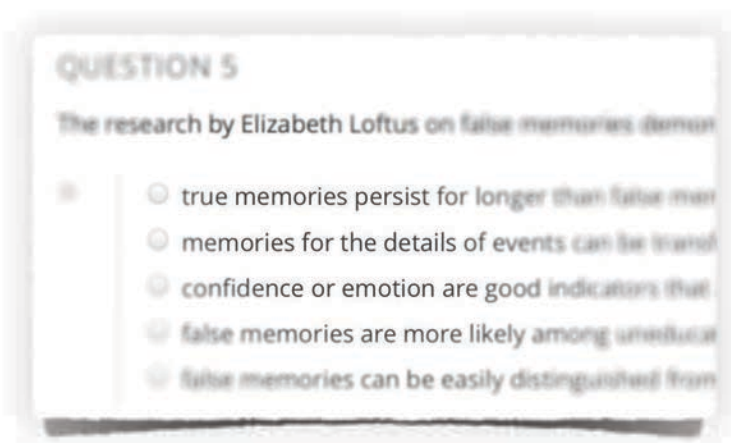


Be sure to try out the buttons below the videos to speed us up or slow us down. You can also present the videos in full screen or in high definition depending on the speed of your internet connection.

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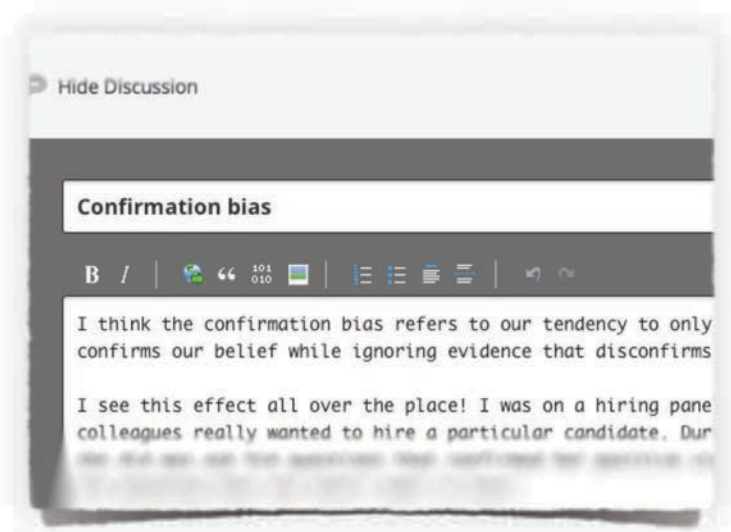
# QUIZZES AND SURVEYS



At the end of each episode, we'll ask you ten multiple choice questions based on the videos that you watched. There will be a "final exam" in Episode 12 based on all of the material in the course.

We'd also like you to answer a few questions in Episode 1 about your beliefs, about thinking, and some questions about you. We'll ask you some of these questions again in Episode 12.

# DISCUSSIONS



At the end of each episode, we ask *What do you think?* and provide a bunch of questions for you to consider based on the material in the episode. We'd like you to contribute to these discussions. Provide an example from your experience, respond to someone else's post, ask questions about the material, help other people understand the material better, and vote up the posts that are interesting or helpful.

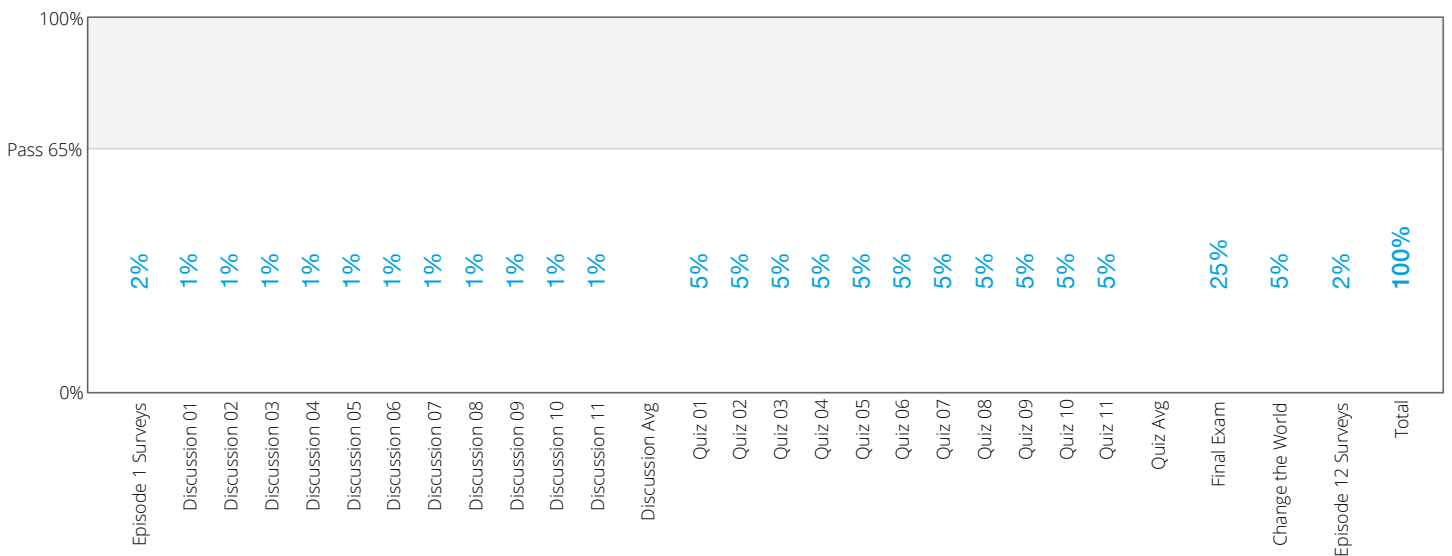
# CHANGE THE WORLD



At the end of the course, we're going to ask you to share a video or photo on the Episode 12 discussion board showing everyone how you changed the world based on what you've learned in Think101x.

We'll give you more information later on in the course.

## GRADES



Your final grade in the course will depend on whether you've completed the surveys, contributed to the discussions, uploaded your assignment, and how well you performed on the 11 quizzes and the final exam. The weights for all the items in the course are listed above. If you login to Think101x, and click "Progress," you can see how well you're doing throughout the course. To earn a certificate for Think101x, you need an overall score of at least 65%.

We are counting on you to only check the *Completed* checkbox if you've finished the survey questions or if you've contributed to the discussions. If you check the box, then you'll get a mark.

DONE? (1 point possible)

I've contributed to the discussion of Episode 1.

Completed