

COMM 3331 – 0020 (26246)
Communication and Decision Making (Hybrid)
3 Credits (T/R, 4:10pm-5:05pm, 312 Cockins Hall)
Autumn 2019 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Mondays 9am-10am, by appointment

*** This syllabus represents a tentative course outline and is subject to change in the interest of student learning ***

COURSE OVERVIEW

Decision-making as a process; Comparisons between interpersonal, bargaining-negotiation contexts, and group organizations; Descriptive and prescriptive models of decision-making in small groups and organizations.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines decision-making processes. How do individuals and groups make decisions? What factors influence the decision-making process? How can communication complicate or simplify decision-making? What leads individuals to make good vs. bad decisions? To examine these questions, we will explore the psychological mechanisms and processes that underlie decision-making. We will complete case studies throughout the semester to help us identify what a decision is, how we evaluate the pros and cons of alternatives, and the pitfalls that lead individuals and groups to make sub-optimal decisions.

The course is delivered in a hybrid format. Two thirds of the course time is traditional in-class, one third is online. In-class time will be a combination of lecture and activities that you will engage in individually and in groups. Online class time will be comprised of discussion posts and videos.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should:

- Be able to define what constitutes a decision.
- Understand what psychological factors influence decision-making.
- Describe and implement basic decision-making methods, such as the DECIDE method.
- Comprehend how communication can help avoid common pitfalls in making individual and group decisions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hastie, R., & Dawes, R. M. (2010). *Rational choice in an uncertain world* (2nd Edition). Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.

Available from The Ohio State University Bookstore and Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Rational-Choice-Uncertain-World-Psychology/dp/1412959039>)

Ariely, D. (2009). *Predictably irrational, revised and expanded edition: The hidden forces that shape our decisions*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.

Available from The Ohio State University Bookstore and Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Predictably-Irrational-Revised-Expanded-Decisions-ebook/dp/B002C949KE/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1544020705&sr=1-1&keywords=predictably+irrational)

*** In the interest of facilitating an up-to-date course and fostering learning, other course materials may be made available during the semester. If so, these materials (or how to obtain them) will be provided on Carmen. No additional costs are to be expected for these materials. ***

ASSESSMENTS AND PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE

- Attendance (10%)
 - Attendance will be taken on random days throughout the semester (approximately 10 times). Students are allowed to miss 2 attendance checks without penalty.
- Discussion Posts (30%)
 - Each week by Sunday at 11:59pm before the week starts, students will submit a 200 word discussion post on Carmen regarding a topic from either the lecture from the current week or the readings for the next week.
 - There are 13 Discussion Posts due across the semester. Only 12 Discussion Posts will be graded. You are thus allowed to skip two of the discussion posts.
 - Each Thursday, I'll present optional topics that students could use for discussion posts.
 - Discussion Posts are graded pass/fail. However, I reserve the right to penalize with partial or no credit for substandard work.
- Discussion Post Reply (20%)
 - Each week on Tuesday by 5pm, students will reply to two of their classmates' Discussion Posts from the current week. Replies should be at least 75 words.
 - Replies can either critique, explain, or extend on the original discussion post.
 - Replies are graded pass/fail. However, I reserve the right to penalize with partial or no credit for substandard work.
 - There are 14 Discussion Post Replies due across the semester. Only 12 Discussion Post Replies will be graded. You are thus allowed to skip two of the discussion posts.
- Pop Quizzes on Readings (5%)
 - Pop quizzes on the readings will be administered randomly throughout the semester. These quizzes represent extra credit.
- Tests (40%)
 - Two tests, comprised of multiple choice, true-false, and/or short answer questions, will be administered during the semester (see course schedule for specific dates).
 - Tests are quasi-cumulative; they will focus on the most recent material, but important course topics may be returned to. It is thus expected that students will retain some information from test to test.
 - A review session will be held during the class immediately preceding the test.

GRADING

A (100%-93%)	A- (<93%-90%)	
B+ (<90%-87%)	B (<87%-83%)	B- (<83%-80%)
C+ (<80%-77%)	C (<77%-73%)	C- (<73%-70%)
D+ (<70%-67%)	D (<67%-60%)	F (<60%)

Note: Although all grades will be entered into Carmen, I make no guarantee that Carmen will accurately calculate your final grade. There are many settings that can be adjusted in Carmen and some will result in an inaccurate calculation of your current/final grade (e.g., there is a setting in which assignments that are not completed are not counted in the final grade). You should calculate your own grade based on the values described in the syllabus.

ILLNESS/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS/MAKE-UPS

If you have flu or another severe illness, you should seek medical attention. Do not attend class! No one wants to get sick because you attended class with a communicable disease. Attendance in the course is not required and you can miss some classes and still receive full credit. Emergencies and illnesses happen. They should not cause you to fail this course. The potential for absences has been built into the syllabus. An occasional absence will not severely impact your grade in the course. However, chronic absenteeism will.

Make-ups and late assignments other than tests will NOT be allowed.

Make-ups may be allowed for tests. It is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you are going to miss a test, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor and/or TA regarding your absence, preferably before the absence or within 24-48 hours after if it is an emergency and you are legitimately unable to notify the instructor or TA prior to the absence.

EMAIL POLICY

I get hundreds of emails per week. If you expect an answer from us by email, you should adhere to the following email etiquette.

1. Include the course number and time of the course in your subject line (e.g., COMM 3331 11:30am).
2. Describe your issue in sufficient detail so that I can provide an answer.
3. Sign your email with your full name and OSU ID.

I try to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week. However, if you email me on Friday afternoon, you might not receive a response prior to Monday morning.

In addition, some questions are too broad to be answered by email. If you have a question that would require more than a few sentences to answer, I may ask you to speak to me in person during office hours.

I try to run an organized class and most questions that you might have will have already been answered in this syllabus. So, if you send a question that is answered in the syllabus, we probably just won't respond. However, if after searching the syllabus you cannot find out the answer to your questions, you should:

1. Review the syllabus again to ensure that the question isn't answered here.
2. Contact me by email or in person.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

PLAGIARISM CHECK

Plagiarism checks will be automatically applied to all submitted documents. In taking this course, students agree to the condition that all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com to aid in detection of plagiarism. Any submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site and at the university.

DISABILITY SERVICES

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF (MENTAL HEALTH STATEMENT)

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614--292--5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766.

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24 hour emergency help is also available through the Suicide Prevention Hotline (Columbus: 614-221-5445 / National: 800-273-8255); or text (4hope to 741741); or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

DIVERSITY

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Assignment	Readings RC = Rational Choice PI = Predictably Irrational	Topic(s)
1	Aug. 21		Syllabus	Class Structure and Expectations
2	Aug. 26 Aug. 28	Discussion Post 1 Due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 1 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Ch. 1 & 2	Thinking & Deciding; What is decision making?
3	Sept. 2 Sept. 4	*** No class on Sept. 2 *** Discussion Post 2 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 2 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Ch. 3	General framework for judgment
4	Sept. 9 Sept. 11	Discussion Post 3 Due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 3 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Ch. 4	Anchoring and adjustment
5	Sept. 16 Sept. 18	Discussion Post 4 Due Sun. 11:59pm. Reply 4 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Ch. 5	Judging heuristically
6	Sept. 23 Sept. 25	Discussion Post 5 Due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 5 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Ch. 6	Explanation-based judgments
7	Sept. 30 Oct. 2	Discussion Post 6 Due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 6 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Ch. 7	Chance and cause
8	Oct. 7 Oct. 10	Discussion Post 7 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 7 due Tues. 11:59pm *** Online Class on Oct. 10 ***	RC – Ch. 8	Thinking Rationally about Uncertainty
9	Oct. 14 Oct. 16	TEST 1 (Oct. 16)		Review and Catchup
10	Oct. 21 Oct. 23	Discussion Post 8 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 8 due Tues. 11:59pm	Online PI – Chapters 1-2	Individual and Group Decision-Making Relativity & Supply and Demand
11	Oct. 28 Oct. 30	Discussion Post 9 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 9 due Tues. 11:59pm	Online PI – Chapters 3 & 7	Cost of Zero Cost Procrastination
12	Nov. 4 Nov. 6	Discussion Post 10 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 10 due Tues. 11:59pm	Online PI – Chapters 4 & 6	Groupthink
13	Nov. 11 Nov. 13	*** No Class on Nov. 11 *** *** Online Class on Nov. 13 ***	ONLINE	
14	Nov. 18 Nov. 20	Discussion Post 11 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 11 due Tues. 11:59pm	PI – Chapters 8-11	Great Expectations
15	Nov. 25 Nov. 27	Discussion Post 12 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 12 due Tues. 11:59pm *** No Class on Nov. 27 ***	Online RC – Chapter 11	Models of Decision-making A rational decision theory
16	Dec. 2 Dec. 4	Discussion Post 13 due Sun. 11:59pm Reply 13 due Tues. 11:59pm	RC – Chapter 12	A descriptive decision theory
17		TEST 2 (TBD)		