

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **INTRO TO DECISION ANALYSIS**

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

2253A 550

Instructor Name(s): GLEN KOEHN

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Philosophical foundations of rational decision making, with examples from social and institutional policy, economics, and strategic thinking generally. Topics include: ideals of reason and rationality, coherence, self-limitation and satisficing, expected utility, basic two person game theory, coordination problems, bargaining solutions, and some paradoxes of choice. Antirequisite(s): Philosophy 2023.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Students will examine some competing views about rationality and probability
State and apply Bayes' Theorem
Understand the basics of expected utility
Say why the theory of strategic interaction ("game theory") is of interest to social contract theory and to evolutionary biology
Be able to describe various puzzles of rationality such as Newcomb's Paradox and the St. Petersburg Paradox
Identify solutions to bargaining problems

Textbooks and Course Materials:

An Introduction to Decision Theory, 2nd ed. by Martin Peterson. (Cambridge 2017) \$46.95

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Quiz 1	09/24/2006	15
Quiz 2	10/08/2026	15
Quiz 3	10/29/2026	15
Quiz 4	11/19/2026	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Final test	TBA	40

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.