Course program and reading list
Semester 2 Year 2020

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Introduction to Decision Making

Lecturer:
Prof. Alex Mintz  mintz.alex@idc.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:
Mr. Eli Mograbi  eli.mograbi@post.idc.ac.il

Course No.: 4552  Course Type: Lecture  Weekly Hours: 4  Credit: 2

Course Requirements: Final Paper  Group Code: 201455201  Language: Hebrew

Course Description
This workshop in political decision making has a theoretical component and a practical one. The theoretical part of the course focuses on models of decision making (rational actor, prospect theory, poliheuristic theory, bureaucratic politics, organizational politics, the cybernetic theory of decision, groupthink, and polythink), biases in decision making, the decision environment, and domestic, international and psychological influences on political decision making.

The practical component of the workshop shows how to utilize the Decision Board platform (decisionboard.org) for process tracing of political and economic decisions, trends and events, voting decisions, and as a Decision Support System.

Course Goals
To familiarize the student with essentials of decision making and with computerized process tracing

A. Essentials of Decision Making
Who makes political decisions?
Types of decisions
Information processing characteristics
Applied Decision Analysis (ADA)
Groupthink, Polythink, and Con-Div
Decision rules
Comparing and contrasting models of decision making
  Rational actor/Expected Utility model
  Prospect Theory
  Cybernetic Theory
  Poliheuristic Theory
  Bureaucratic Politics
  Organizational Politics
Biases and heuristics in decision making
Foreign policy decisions
Influences on national security and foreign policy decision making

B. The use of Decision Board (DB) for research, training, and teaching
Computerized process tracing
Applied Decision Analysis
DB as a Decision Support System

C. Guidance in writing your final paper
Grading

Active participation: 10%
Computer exercise: 20% due after recitations. Exact dates will be sent via Moodle.

Lecturer Office Hours

Schedule in advance through Ms. Shira Akiva
Shira.Akiva@idc.ac.il

Teaching Assistant

Eli Mograbi
elimograbi@gmail.com - schedule via e-mail

Reading List

Allison, Graham. The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50. Foreign Affairs, Aug. 2012
Kertzer, Joshua D. and Dustin Tingley. Political Psychology in International Relations: Beyond the Paradigms (2018)
Recommended Reading: