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

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 program and reading list

Semester 2  Year 2020

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

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