

University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 216 (LEC 001)
Probability and Decision Making

Term Winter 2012
Class: Th 7:00 - 9:50
Classroom: HH2107

Instructor: Gregory Andres, Ph.D.
Office: HH326
email: ggandres@uwaterloo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will introduce students to a variety of theoretical tools for understanding what makes a decision rational. In particular, we will study the prevailing theory of rational decision making by individuals in group contexts. The main goal of the course is to give students an opportunity to understand these tools and to put them to use, so some of the work involved in successful completion of the course will of necessity be technical. But we will also pay attention to the presuppositions involved in the application of these theories and hence to their limitations, and to some proposals for how they might be modified and so made more useful.

REQUIRED TEXT & ACCESSORIES

1. Dixit, et al., *Games of Strategy*, 3d, Norton, 2009.
2. iClicker

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation 20%
2. 3 assignments worth 15% each
3. Final Exam (35%)

Please see class website for due dates and other information. No late work will be accepted except for documented medical or compassionate grounds.

COURSE WEBSITE

www.gregandres.com

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Apply concepts and techniques to games with sequential or simultaneous moves.
- Apply concepts and techniques to games with discrete or mixed strategies.
- Discuss the strengths and limitations of the neo-classical view of rationality.
- Articulate the philosopher's interest in game theory

ADDENDUM

CROSS-LISTED COURSE:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about rules for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline:

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4:

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals:

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW):

<http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.