

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Decision-Making and Ethics
Course code	27215
Scientific sector	SECS-P/08
Degree	Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences
Semester and academic year	2 nd semester 2019/20
Year	2
Credits	7
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	42
Total lab hours	/
Total exercise hours	21
Attendance	suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	none
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/

Specific educational objectives	<p>The course refers to the typical educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Business Administration.</p> <p>The course is an exercise in critical thinking. Thinking is critical when it questions the conditions of its own institution, considering those elements that inform decision-making as such. As a consequence, these elements constitute the basis of modern decision theories that define decision-making as a mere process in the sense of problem-solving activities yielding solutions that are ideally optimal. Focusing on the said elements the underlying sense-structure of decision theories becomes manifest so as to widen and eventually redefine the scope of decision-making beyond the borders of standard positions. By questioning what requires a decision in the first place, configurations of its being made emerge in the differences between judgment, evaluation, conclusion, calculation, estimation, sentencing, opinion, assessment, discretion etc. Accordingly, decision-making involves, each time, human abilities such as intelligence, rationality, computational ability, sagacity, prudence, awareness, common sense etc. Along with decision-making, man as such is evoked in his being. The said exercise is to be completed by questioning the ethical implications of decision-making processes, considering original, classical and applied forms of ethical thinking. In this context the notion of responsibility (social responsibility, economic responsibility) plays a key role.</p>
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	<p>Specific educational objectives of the course are:</p> <p>(1) acquisition of abilities required for a sufficient analysis of those elements that inform decision-making processes and consequently are at the basis of decision theories;</p> <p>(2) acquisition of abilities required for a sufficient diagnosis of the ethical implications of the said processes;</p> <p>(3) development of critical thinking through the combination of various theoretical and methodological approaches that result in both decision-making and decision theories;</p> <p>(4) adoption of reflective faculties concerning different elements of decisions as well as the human abilities involved in their making;</p> <p>(5) achievement of basic knowledge concerning ethical thinking and the turning-points of its tradition (with due regard to the notion of responsibility).</p>
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Lecturer	Ralf Lüfter, office E201, Ralf.Luefter@unibz.it , tel. 0471 013293 https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/11838-ralf-luefter
Scientific sector of the lecturer	M-FIL/03
Teaching language	German
Office hours	21 hours Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&degree=13016%2C13141
Lecturing assistant	/
Teaching assistant	/
Office hours	
List of topics covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to critical thinking - the elements of decision-making - the structure of decision-making processes and their fundamental differences - the problem of decision and the essence of man - the presuppositions and implications of decision theories - the ethical implications of decision-making - the notion of responsibility (especially social and economic responsibility)
Teaching format	Frontal lecture and seminar style. Students are required to prepare readings and are encouraged to participate in class discussions. — Exercises will be

dedicated to a guided reading seminar. — Students are expected to write a short essay of a philosophical character.

Learning outcomes

Against the backdrop of critical thinking the focus of the course is on those elements that inform decision-making processes as well as on their ethical implications. Thereby the presuppositions of decision theories are analysed in order to widen and redefine the scope of decision science beyond the borders of standard positions. Different forms of decision-making (judgment, evaluation, conclusion, calculation, estimation, sentencing, opinion, assessment, discretion etc.) are introduced as well as corresponding abilities of the human being (intelligence, rationality, computational ability, sagacity, prudence, awareness, common sense etc.). The aim of the course is to provide a critical orientation in present-day approaches to decision-making and to elaborate on a sufficiently distinctive characterization of the ethical questions implied, though not explicitly presented, in most concepts of decision theory.

Applying knowledge and understanding:

1. development of the capacity for thinking autonomously in a critical way;
2. development of the capacity for questioning the presuppositions of modern decision theories and for understanding their ethical implications
3. development of the capacity for understanding philosophical forms of research in difference to scientific ones

Making judgments:

1. learning what a judgment consists of;
2. learning and applying the difference between making a judgment and evaluating
3. learning and applying the difference between making a judgment and expressing opinion.

Communication skills:

1. students learn how to reason autonomously;
2. students exercise their ability to formulate arguments and learn how to develop a style of thinking;
3. students learn to distinguish between informative knowledge and knowledge based on understanding;
4. students are confronted with the specific requirements of written philosophical communication (essay writing).

Learning skills:

1. critical thinking;
2. ability to understand the fundamentals of decision-making processes;
3. ability to read philosophical texts
4. written expression of critical thinking.

Assessment

Final written exam at the end of the term that consists of open questions to assess knowledge and understanding. The exam preparation should be based on (1) the **thematic topics covered in class** and (2) to the

	<p>readings discussed during the lessons. A copy of all relevant text passages will be provided in the course of the semester. In addition to that each student is expected (3) to prepare a short essay. The topic of the essay has to be established in accordance with the lecturer.</p>
Assessment language	German
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>The evaluation of the written exam weights 70% of the final grade. The essay weights 30% of the final grade.</p> <p><u>Relevant for the assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • ability to ask adequate questions • critical thinking • analytical strength
Required readings	<i>A copy of all relevant text passages will be provided in the course of the semester and made available in the reserve collection</i>
Supplementary readings	