



Decision Sciences
SSC 201
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course introduces the learner to utilizing and applying both quantitative and qualitative methods for individual, organizational, and societal decision making. A variety of tools and techniques will be examined as the foundation for the development and interpretation of attributes and variables in addition to the use of data sources for the purpose of improving processes and organizational environments.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Butterfield, J. (2013). *Problem-solving and decision making* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Course Technology, Cengage Learning.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Compare the major types of decision-making models.
- Contrast decision-making quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Select and apply appropriate decision-making tools and techniques.
- Use applicable tacit and explicit knowledge sources for decision-making.
- Choose and apply appropriate decision-making models and associated methods to resolve problems.
- Facilitate, manage, and lead effective decision-making processes.
- Use ethical, legal, and socially responsible decision-making methods.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	300	30
Assignments	4	400	40
Group Project	1	300	30
Total Points		1,000	100

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfield, Part 1: Identifying and Defining Problems • Butterfield, Part 3: Thinking Critically • Parts 1 & 3 PowerPoints • Attend the Collaborate Session: Decision Sciences and Course Introduction • Decision Sciences Group Project • Unit 1 Supplemental Readings: The Power of Defining the Problem and Before You Innovate, Ask the Right Questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Discussion • Unit 1 Assignment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfield, Part 2: Solving the Problem • Part 2 PowerPoint (attached) • About Decision Making: Models and Methods • Rational Decision-Making and the Group Project • Unit 2 Supplemental Readings: Plus: The Decision Making Process, Strategic Decision-Making: models and Methods in the Face of Complexity and Time Pressure, and The Hidden Traps in Decision Making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 Discussion • Unit 2 Assignment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfield, Part 4: Group Decision Making and Problem Solving • Part 4 PowerPoint (attached) • Unit 3 Supplemental Readings: Stages of Group Development, What To Do About Conflicts?, Effective Teams: Camels of a Different Color?, Putting the Brakes on Decision-Making Momentum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Discussion • Unit 3 Assignment
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfield, Part 5: Decision Support Tools • Part 5 PowerPoint (attached) • Decision Making Tools and Techniques • Unit 4 Supplemental Readings: Six Sigma Tools and Templates, The Journey to Strategic Facilitation, Meeting Sabotage: Met and Conquered, Five Strategies for Improving Group Effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4 Discussion • Unit 4 Assignment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Policy and Decision Making Interview • Unit 5 Supplemental Readings: Public Policy Decision Making--Is Critical Thinking Dead?, Amy Ridenour: Harris Decision Will Impact Organized Labor, and Solutions for America: Developing a Strong Border and Immigration Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 Discussion
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 6 Supplemental Readings: Effective Strategies for Managing Virtual Teams, Mobile Group Dynamics in Large-Scale Collaborative Virtual Environments • Collaborate Session: Review of Decision Making and Problem Resolution and Final Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 6 Discussion • Group Project

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.