

## **Title: The Course of Decision Theory in Curriculum at the Hellenic**

### **Army Academy**

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In our daily life everyone has to make decisions. Without knowing we use tools of decision theory, in order to make even a simple decision. So what is decision theory? Decision theory tries to explain how human decisions are made. Furthermore, it conduces to the development of methods and tools of analysis to assist that decision making, in order to be the best decision for the human. The development of modern decision theory started in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through contributions from several academic disciplines. Thus, it is typically pursued by researchers who identify themselves as economists, mathematicians, political and social scientists etc.

The knowledge of decision theory is of great importance for military officers. Military officers, who are aware of the structure of decision processes, are capable of conducting military operations, estimate all possible situations and take the appropriate decisions using various decision-rules and procedures. Therefore, decision theory is included in the curriculum of Hellenic Army Academy. Cadets are taught this course during the spring semester of fourth year and it is obligatory for all to take the course. It is chosen to be taught at the last year of their bachelor studies, because cadets will use in the best way all the academic and military knowledge they gained the previous years. Moreover, they will understand better the importance of decision theory in the future career.

The aim of this presentation is to show how pedagogic and teaching techniques are implemented in teaching in military academies, more specifically at the course of decision theory. This presentation consists of two parts. In the first part basic ideas of decision theory will be provided. Decision theory is mainly concerned with methods for determining the optimal course of action when a number of alternatives are available and their consequences cannot be forecast with certainty. Some decision problems can be solved by listing all the possible consequences and the associated probabilities for each alternative and calculating the expected values of gain (for each alternative). Then select the alternative with the highest expected gain. The determination of the optimal alternative becomes more complicated when the alternatives involve sequences of decisions, In the second part we are going to discuss on how the course of decision theory is organized. Planning a course consists of three parts: 1) find and write down the objectives of the course, 2) choose the teaching techniques and 3) find the way to evaluate the course in order to get the feedback. Therefore, the objectives of the course are firstly presented. The objectives are divided into three categories: 1) knowledge, 2) skills and 3) attitude. In this way, cadets are aware of the usefulness of the course in their future career and understand

why they are taught this course. Second, we discuss on the teaching techniques, which we use in order the course be beneficial for the cadets. The teaching techniques have to be adjusted to the environment of military academy, since the cadets follow a strict military daily routine. Next, we discuss on the methods that are used for evaluating the course. The evaluation of the course is consists of two parts. The first evaluation takes place at the middle of semester. In this way, the professor receives a feedback. The second evaluation is done after at the end of the course. The outcomes show how much the cadets have succeeded to understand and gain the objectives. At the end of the presentation a draft of micro-teaching of the course is provided.

**Keywords:** Decision theory, Teaching techniques, Cadets

**References:**

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