

Columbia University
PSYC g9180 or w4285, Spring 2011
MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES
TO HUMAN DECISION MAKING

Special topic:
Long-term goals and Intertemporal Choice
Tuesday¹ 4:10-6:00
405 Schermerhorn Hall

Instructor:

David Krantz, 419 Schermerhorn (212-854-4534)

Office Hours: by e-mail appointment

Course Description:

This seminar (which can be repeated for credit in multiple semesters) serves as a discussion forum for postdocs, graduate students, and advanced undergraduates who want to contribute to thinking about environmentally-relevant decision making. The special focus in Spring, 2011 is **long-term goals**. This topic is obviously relevant to environment, but we can consider broad classes of long-term goals, including personal fitness, relationship, career and organization goals, adherence to moral standards, and environmental goals. We particularly consider perspectives from different disciplines, including psychology, ecology, economics, geography, history, environmental engineering, law, political science, philosophy, anthropology, sociology and neuroscience.

We will jointly design a more specific plan for specific seminar topics during our first meeting (**Tuesday, January 18**). One objective is to identify readings that go with proposed topics and draw on the multiple disciplines. A fairly broad reading list in the field of judgment and decision making is posted separately; it is not a reading list for this seminar, but some items provide useful background.

Our meetings will take several forms, including short introductions to topic areas by the instructor and other seminar participants, discussions of mutually agreed upon course readings, and occasional guest lectures.

Prerequisites:

Background in decision making (e.g., Psyc 1490 or 2235) + instructor permission.

Course Requirements:

Graduate students and advanced undergraduates can register for 1 to 3 points (for repeated credit in different semesters). Everybody is expected to participate in the general discussion during and following each topic presentation.

With the instructor's help, students will develop a reading or research project and prepare a paper on it, the scope of which will be proportionate to credit desired.

¹ **NOTE CHANGE IN TIME: TUESDAY, NOT THURSDAY**