

Decision Theory and Risk

Beslutsteori och risk
7.5 credits

Programme course

721A66

Valid from: 2025 Autumn semester

Determined by	Main field of study	
Course and Programme Syllabus Board at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Applied Ethics	
Date determined	Course level	Progressive specialisation
2024-11-12	Second cycle	A1N
Revised by	Disciplinary domain	
	Social sciences	
Revision date	Subject group	
	Philosophy	
Offered first time	Offered for the last time	
Autumn semester 2025		
Department	Replaced by	
Institutionen för kultur och samhälle		

Course offered for

- Master's Programme in Ethics, Science, and Policy

Entry requirements

- Bachelor's degree equivalent to a Swedish Kandidatexamen.
- English corresponding to the level of English in Swedish upper secondary education (Engelska 6).
Exemption from Swedish

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students should on an advanced level be able to:

- analyse and interpret decision-making processes and risk assessments
- evaluate the ethical implications of decision-making under uncertainty
- discuss the role of decision theory in public policy
- apply rational choice theory to practical policy issues
- assess the impact of risk on individual and societal well-being.

Course content

The course addresses philosophical questions within decision theory and risk analysis. The research area of decision theory and risk is introduced through case studies in areas where philosophical questions are central. Basic ethical theory and questions of the philosophy of science are covered in the course. Theories from these research areas are applied to practical problems. The course assumes that decision-making requires an understanding of how a practical problem should be understood and a normative view on how the same problem should be solved.

Teaching and working methods

The course includes lectures, group discussions, seminars, and workshops. Students are also expected to engage in self-study.

Language of instruction: English

Examination

The course is examined by:

- active participation in seminars, scale: UG
- individual written assignment, scale: EC

For a final grade of Pass (E), grades of at least Pass (E) are required for all elements. A higher grade will be based on the individual written assignment.

Detailed information can be found in the course's study guide.

If special circumstances prevail, and if it is possible with consideration of the nature of the compulsory component, the examiner may decide to replace the compulsory component with another equivalent component.

If the LiU coordinator for students with disabilities has granted a student the right to an adapted examination for a written examination in an examination hall, the student has the right to it.

If the coordinator has recommended for the student an adapted examination or alternative form of examination, the examiner may grant this if the examiner assesses that it is possible, based on consideration of the course objectives.

An examiner may also decide that an adapted examination or alternative form of examination if the examiner assessed that special circumstances prevail, and the examiner assesses that it is possible while maintaining the objectives of the course.

Students failing an exam covering either the entire course or part of the course twice are entitled to have a new examiner appointed for the reexamination.

Students who have passed an examination may not retake it in order to improve their grades.

Grades

ECTS, EC

Other information

Planning and implementation of a course must take its starting point in the wording of the syllabus. The course evaluation included in each course must therefore take up the question how well the course agrees with the syllabus.

The course is conducted in such a way that there are equal opportunities with regard to sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation and age.

If special circumstances prevail, the vice-chancellor may in a special decision specify the preconditions for temporary deviations from this course syllabus, and delegate the right to take such decisions.

About teaching and examination language

The teaching language is presented in the Overview tab for each course. The examination language relates to the teaching language as follows:

- If teaching language is “Swedish”, the course as a whole could be given in Swedish, or partly, or as a whole, in English. Examination language is Swedish, but parts of the examination can be in English.
- If teaching language is “English”, the course as a whole is taught in English. Examination language is English.
- If teaching language is “Swedish/English”, the course as a whole will be taught in English if students without prior knowledge of the Swedish language participate. Examination language is Swedish or English depending on teaching language.