



Introduction to Structured Decision Making (ALC3171)

April 7 – 11, 2014 * Denver, CO

Pre-Class Checklist

1. Read the book “*Smart Choices: A Practical Guide for Making Better Life Decisions*” before coming to class. This book will be mailed to you and is yours to keep. The readings provide a good foundation given that the instructors will go into greater depth where the book leaves off. ([Reading guide attached here under “Special Information”](#))

You will be able to participate more actively in the course if you are familiar with the content of the Smart Choices book. The following course objectives which are directly related to this reading are expected to be attained by the end of the course:

Knowledge and Skills related to Smart Choices reading:

- Be able to derive the first 5 elements in the ProACT process. (Chapters 1 – 6)
 - Construct and evaluate a consequences table (Chapter 5)
 - Construct an objectives hierarchy
 - Convert objectives into measurable attributes
 - Be able to explain “uncertainty” – when it’s important, how to portray it, how to use it (it relates to value of information) (Chapter 7)
 - Be able to explain how risk attitudes affect utility (objective function) (Chapter 8)
 - Recognize linked or iterative decisions; analyze a linked set of decisions (Chapter 9)
 - Have working knowledge of judgment, biases, common human tendencies, and their relevance to structured decision making (Chapter 10)
2. Read the **Gregory and Long 2009** article. ([Article attached here under “Special Information”](#))
 3. Review **Excel spreadsheet basics**. However, if you are very familiar with the formula and solver functions on Excel spreadsheets you may opt out of this tutorial. Otherwise, review chapters 0-3 below and complete exercises 0-3:

Chapter 0 – Spreadsheet Hints and Tips

<http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/vtcfwru/spreadsheets/?Page=conbiolandecol/ConBio0.htm>

Chapter 1 – Mathematical Functions and Graphs

<http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/vtcfwru/spreadsheets/?Page=conbiolandecol/ConBio1.htm>

Chapter 3 – Statistical Distributions

<http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/vtcfwru/spreadsheets/?Page=conbiolandecol/ConBio3.htm>

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4. View the first lecture in the Principles of Modeling on-line course. To access, click <http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/vtcfwru/spreadsheets/?Page=pom/pom1.htm>
5. Provide a brief description on a real decision problem from your job. Please submit your **capstone proposal** to Ashley at ashley_fortune_isham@fws.gov by **March 10, 2014**. ([Instructions attached here under "Special Information"](#)).
6. Fill out the **Participant Background Survey**: This information will give the instructors an idea of the general make-up of the class so they can better prepare their sessions. Please complete by **March 10, 2014** (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSS6Q97>)