Leaders and private eyes, kings and truckers, you and me - - we all face great problems, and we all need to make great decisions, but researchers find that most decisions are bad decisions. Almost nobody makes good decisions, except in the movies. Here brilliantly - - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHXKitKAT1E

But we can. Please, see this film clip.

What is a Great problem? How can we tell when a decision is Great?
What would the best leaders do?
We'll be decision makers: Truman and the atomic bomb, the firing of Steve Jobs, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, the Challenger disaster, decisions in medicine and politics and business and sports and literature and everyday life - - locally, globally, historically, futuristically.

The truest way to understand decision making is by making decisions.

We will define problems, identify alternatives, make rules, and break rules. The course is rooted in the Harvard perspective.
We’ll look at decisions as parts of larger patterns. We’ll look at what happens after a decision, as well as what happens before and during decision making.
We’ll make good decisions, and we’ll make bad decisions. When we make a bad decision, what are we going to do about it?

Who killed the evil man on the train? Should the pharmaceutical company release the Abtexol serum? What will they name the new stadium? Was it OK for Lincoln to lie to his friends? What makes a song a “hit”? Who should be the Leader? What’s going on in the famous historical “handshake photos”?

Always, our perspective is: the truest way to learn about decision making is by making decisions.

Class format: directed discussion and presentations. Contributions to class discussion are expected of all students.

Ambitious individual projects. Our decisions and actions are going to change the world in 13 weeks.

A variety of writing assignments: several brief responses, some quizzes, a few short essays, a part-take-home mid-term and a part-take-home final.