



MONARCH MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Open Course Network · Micro-Course 08

COURSE PROSPECTUS

Decide Behind the Veil

A one-week, applied micro-course on Rawls's veil of ignorance — a practical test for designing fair policies and allocations, worked on a real decision of your own and taught with its major critiques.

1 wk

One weekly module

6

Sections

70%

To pass · unlimited attempts

Monarch Management Institute

UGSM-Monarch Business School Switzerland · umonarch.ch/MMI

Online Management Education for Working Professionals

At a glance

Duration	1 week — one weekly module of six sections
Study time	≈ 6 directed hours
Level	Introductory; no prior study of philosophy required
Assessment	1 auto-graded scenario assessment · 70% to pass · unlimited attempts
Award	MMI Certificate of Knowledge
Format	Fully online, self-paced

What you will gain

By the end of this course you will be able to apply the veil-of-ignorance test to a real allocation or policy decision you own, producing a defended, fairer design you would accept whatever position you turned out to occupy.

And what it counts toward

You earn the Monarch-endorsed Certificate of Knowledge and 1 MMI-Credit. MMI-Credits carry toward MMI program progression (PD-001).

What this course is

Decide Behind the Veil is a fully online, self-paced micro-course on John Rawls's veil of ignorance. Most people who allocate opportunities or write policy decide from where they happen to stand, and quietly write their own advantage into the rule. This course teaches the test that removes that partiality: choose the rule before you know which position under it will be yours, and adopt only what you would accept from any position.

You choose one real decision you own in the opening section — a policy, an allocation, a rule with winners and losers — and carry it through all six, so the course produces a fairer, defensible design you can act on, not a certificate of attendance.

The machinery you will learn to apply

- **The original position** — deciding without knowing which position is yours
- **What the veil screens out** — and the primary goods you judge by instead
- **Maximin reasoning** — protecting the worst-off, and the utilitarian alternative
- **The two principles** — equal liberties, fair opportunity, and the difference principle

Who this course is for

- Managers and executives who design policies, rules or allocation processes
- Public-sector, foundation and NGO staff who distribute scarce opportunities or funds
- HR, reward and people leaders shaping decisions with clear winners and losers
- BBA, MBA or DBA candidates seeking a rigorous, applied foundation in justice and fairness

What you will accomplish

- Distinguish the veil of ignorance from bargaining, majority rule and welfare-maximizing
- Strip your own standpoint from a decision while keeping the facts you need to design well
- Reason to protect the worst-off position, and weigh the utilitarian alternative honestly
- Apply the two principles of justice, in order, to a real decision
- Recognize where the veil is contested — Nozick, Sandel, Sen, Okin — and use it responsibly
- Produce a defended, position-blind design for a real allocation or policy you own

Your week, section by section

Section	Title
1	The Original Position and the Veil of Ignorance
2	Behind the Veil — What Is Screened Out and What Remains
3	Choosing Behind the Veil — Maximin and the Utilitarian Alternative
4	What the Veil Yields — The Two Principles of Justice
5	Using the Veil as a Practical Test — and Its Limits
6	Synthesis — Deciding Behind the Veil as a Repeatable Practice

Each section follows the same four steps — Explain, Show, Do, Feedback — worked through a running case (Priya Nair redesigning a fellowship allocation at the Halden Fund) and then on your own decision.

Assessment and certificate

One auto-graded 15-item scenario assessment at the end of the module. Each item presents an unfamiliar situation and supplies the facts, so it tests judgment rather than recall. A score of **70%** passes, with unlimited untimed attempts, and a full explanation is shown for every item. On passing you earn the **MMI Certificate of Knowledge**.

Taught with its critiques

Rawls's argument is among the most influential and most debated works of modern political philosophy. This course teaches the device as a powerful but contested tool — with the utilitarian alternative and the major critiques (Nozick, Sandel, Sen, Okin) taught alongside it — so you learn to use the veil as a defensible test, not a formula that settles every question.

Pick a real decision, and design it behind the veil.

