

## Syllabus

### Course description

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Methods for Public Policies Evaluation</b>
<b>Course code</b>	27416
<b>Scientific sector</b>	SECS-P/03
<b>Degree</b>	LM 63 – Master in Public Policies and Administration
<b>Semester and academic year</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester
<b>Year</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> year - academic year 2022/23
<b>Credits</b>	6
<b>Modular</b>	no
<b>Total lecturing hours</b>	36
<b>Total exercise hours</b>	6
<b>Attendance</b>	suggested, but not required
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<p>Language certificate English B1 is required.</p> <p>Knowledge of fundamental statistical concepts at the level of the LM 63 27066 Statistics for the Public Sector of the Master programme LM 63 will be helpful, but it is not required.</p>
<b>Course page</b>	<a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/">https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/</a> unibz Open Learning Environment (OLE)
<b>Specific educational objectives</b>	<p>The course belongs to the scientific area of Public Economics (SECS-P/03)</p> <p>The course will introduce students to the most commonly applied quantitative techniques in impact evaluation and a set of reasoning skills intended to help them to assess causality and impact and become both a consumer and producer of public policy evaluations.</p>
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Prof Dr Alexander Moradi</b> <a href="mailto:Alexander.Moradi@unibz.it">Alexander.Moradi@unibz.it</a> Office E208 – Tel +39 0471 013135 <a href="https://alexandermoradi.org/">https://alexandermoradi.org/</a> <a href="https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/39937-alexander-moradi">https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/39937-alexander-moradi</a>
<b>Scientific sector of the lecturer</b>	SECS-P/01 (Economia Politica)
<b>Teaching language</b>	English
<b>Office hours</b>	18 hours MySNS – Individual timetable Webpage:

	<a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&amp;department=26&amp;degree=13426%2C13543">https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&amp;department=26&amp;degree=13426%2C13543</a>
<b>List of topics covered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Experimental Ideal: Causal Effects and the Selection Problem</li> <li>2) Randomized Control Trials</li> <li>3) Natural experiments (discovering, analyzing, evaluating)</li> <li>4) Panel, Difference-in-Differences, Matching, Instrumental Variables</li> <li>5) Regression Discontinuity Designs</li> </ol> <p>The emphasis is on applying the methods to evaluate real world policy questions. For this we use the statistical software R.</p>
<b>Teaching format</b>	Lectures, exercises, projects, ...

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b> Students of the course acquire detailed knowledge about the economics and econometrics of policy evaluation.</p> <p><b>Applying knowledge and understanding</b> At the end of the course, students will be able to apply quantitative techniques and replicate results of impact evaluations of actual policy interventions using the statistical software R.</p> <p><b>Making judgments</b> Students will learn to assess the validity of research that claims to answer causal policy questions.</p> <p><b>Communication skills</b> Both oral and written communication skills will be developed in this course via presentations and written assessments. Students will be expected to be able to present research findings to both specialist and non-specialist audiences in a clear and precise way.</p> <p><b>Learning skills</b> The course will help participants to better think logically, analytically and critically, and bring these skills to their future workplaces.</p>
--------------------------	---

<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Attending students will work on a project of their choice, present it (30% of the final grade) and complete a 2,000 word project report (70%).</p> <p>Non-attending students will be given a longer project assignment of 3,000 words that will count for 100% of the final grade. Please contact the lecturer within the first 4</p>
-------------------	--

	<p>weeks of the course.</p> <p>The project requires either a) developing an evaluation plan or b) the replication and critical reflection on an existing public policy evaluation using the statistical software package R. Project reports will have to be handed in by the exam date.</p> <p>The project assignment assesses the understanding of the methods and the students' ability to apply the methods to real world policies and interpret computer outputs.</p>
<b>Assessment language</b>	English
<b>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</b>	Clarity; correct use of terminology; ability to present arguments convincingly; correct assessment of relationships; ability to summarize, evaluate, and demonstrate critical thinking.
<b>Required readings</b>	<p>Angrist, J. D. and J. Pischke (2009). <i>Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricists Companion</i>, Princeton University Press.</p> <p>Gertler, P., and S. Martinez, P. Premand, L. Rawlings, and C. Vermeersch (2011). <i>Impact Evaluation in Practice</i>. The World Bank.</p>
<b>Supplementary readings</b>	<p>Dunning, T. (2012). <i>Natural Experiments in Social Sciences</i>, Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>The lectures will draw from journal articles. Supplementary reading material will be posted regularly on OLE.</p>