Freie Universität Bozen
Libera Università di Bolzano
Università Liedia de Bulsan

Syllabus
Course description

Course title	**Methods for Public Policies Evaluation**
Course code	**27416 - 27507**
Scientific sector	SECS-P/03
Degree	LM 63 – Master in economics and management of the public sector LM DATA – Master in Data Analytics for Economics and Management (curriculum Data Analytics for Economics)
Semester and academic year	2nd semester 2023/24
Year	2nd year LM-63 1st year LM-Data
Credits	6
Modular	no

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	6
Attendance	recommended, but not required.
Prerequisites	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.
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/ unibz Open Learning Environment (OLE)

Specific educational objectives	The course refers to the typical educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of public economics (SEC-P/03). The course will introduce students to the most commonly used quantitative techniques in impact evaluation. Students will learn a set of reasoning skills to help them to assess causality and impact, so to become both a critical consumer and producer of impact evaluations.

Lecturer	**Prof Dr Alexander Moradi** Office E2.08, Tel 0471 013135 https://alexandermoradi.org/ https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/39937-alexander-moradi
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/01 (economia politica)
Teaching language	English
Office hours	18 hours

	MySNS – Individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13543%2C13723
Lecturing assistant	None
Teaching assistant	None
List of topics covered	1) The experimental ideal: Causal effects and the selection problem 2) Randomized control trials 3) Natural experiments (discovering, analyzing, evaluating) 4) Panel, difference-in-differences, matching, instrumental variables 5) Regression Discontinuity Designs The emphasis is on the application of statistical techniques to evaluate real world policy questions. For this we use the statistical software R.
Teaching format	Lectures, exercises, projects.

Learning outcomes	**1) Knowledge and understanding** Students of the course acquire detailed knowledge about the economics and econometrics of policy evaluation. **2) Applying knowledge and understanding** At the end of the course, students will be able to apply quantitative techniques and reproduce the results of an impact evaluation of actual policy interventions in particular fields of economics using the statistical software R. **3) Making judgments** Students will learn to assess the validity of research methods that aim to estimate causal estimates. **4) Communication skills** 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. **5) Learning skills** The course will help participants to better think logically, analytically and critically, and bring these skills to their future workplaces.

Assessment	For attending and non-attending students, i) Final exam (30% of the final grade): The final exam consists of problems related to the analysis and interpretations of impact evaluations. ii) Project assignment (70% of the final grade): The project requires either a) the replication and critical reflection on an existing impact evaluation or b) developing an evaluation plan for a topic of their own. Students will have to give a presentation on their analyses and hand in a 2,000 word project report towards the end of the semester. The final exam includes multiple problems that assess the understanding of the methods and the students' ability to apply the knowledge to real world policies. Questions related to interpretation of computer outputs assess students' ability to interpret analysis results. The in-class slides of the instructor will form the basis for the material covered in the exams and will be made available to the students via OLE. The final exam and project assignments are aimed at verifying skill 1 (Knowledge and understanding). The project assignment allows to verify skills 2, 3 and 4 (Applying knowledge and understanding, Making judgements, Communication skills). Autonomous study (5, Learning skills) is indirectly verified, because passing the exam is also made possible by the autonomous execution of the learning tasks required by the lecturer.
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	Criteria are standard: in exams correct procedure and solution counts. In addition, solutions to problems require the ability to summarize, evaluate, and demonstrate critical thinking. Similar skills are required for the group presentations along with teamwork.

Required readings	Angrist, J. D. and J. Pischke (2009). *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricists Companion,* Princeton University Press. Gertler, P., and S. Martinez, P. Premand, L. Rawlings, and C. Vermeersch (2011). *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. The World Bank.
Supplementary readings	Dunning, T. (2012). *Natural Experiments in Social Sciences*, Cambridge University Press. The lectures will draw from journal articles. Supplementary reading material will be posted regularly on OLE.