COURSE DETAIL

QUANTIATIVE METHODS FOR POLICY EVALUATION
Country France
Host Institution Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)
Program(s) Sciences Po Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Economics
UCEAP Course Number 164
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title QUANTIATIVE METHODS FOR POLICY EVALUATION
UCEAP Transcript Title QUAN METHD POL EVAL
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

Over the course of the last four years societies have witnessed one of the most dramatic returns of state interventionism since the Second World War. Governments have sought to mitigate the consequences of multiple crises – be that the 2008 financial crash, the COVID-19 pandemic, or the inflationary shock post the Ukrainian war – through a raft of new policy measures be that financial regulation, price controls, lockdowns, furlough programs, basic income packages, and infrastructure initiatives. However, it is often very hard to say with confidence what the consequences of these polices were. Using this crisis context as an overarching frame, this course introduces quantitative methods employed in evaluating the efficacy of public policy. The course begins with a focus on the basics of working with data, emphasizing the importance of how data is designed (longitudinal or cross-section) as well as the level of data collection (ecological or individual). Then, the focus turns to empirical methodology: how researchers design natural experiments to estimate the average treatment effect of a policy. Beginning with simple OLS regression, the course advances to studying three basic approaches: difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity design, and instrumental-variables regression. Finally, the course concentrates on examples of applied research and examines how researchers connect these methods with important debates in public policy and social theory. Throughout the course there is a strong emphasis on adopting a hands on approach, using the R programming language. This course develops the basic tools to be able to: manipulate and clean data, perform simple analyses both descriptive and analytical, as well as visualize their results in an aesthetically pleasing way. But more than that, this course builds the confidence to explore R on one's own, understanding that programming is a skill which scholars develop over many years through persistent practice. This class expects students to have a certain mathematical confidence but does not expect students to know anything about econometrics.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number
DSOC 25A32

Host Institution Course Title
QUANTIATIVE METHODS FOR POLICY EVALUATION

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202420/269302

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
Sociology

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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