MA-M-110: Policy Evaluation (1)

General Information on Topics & Oral Presentations

After the kick off session and introductory lecture on the basics of causality, there will be nine theoretical Q&A sessions on different estimation strategies. Approaches covered are experimental methods, propensity score matching, difference-in-differences, instrumental variable as well as regression discontinuity designs. The course is in a reverse classroom format. Pre-selected (groups of) students will be asked to prepare an informal presentation of about 25-30 minutes summarizing the main points for each of these topics. The presenting group is also supposed to prepare 3-5 questions for the rest of the group. After that, open questions will be discussed together and the lecturer will provide some more structured input on each topic.

- **Schedule:**
  The kick-off session and introductory lecture are scheduled for Tuesday, April 08 and April 15. Afterwards, there will be 4 Q&A sessions on Mondays and 5 Q&A sessions on Tuesdays. All sessions will take place in person from 10.15 - 11.45am at Campus Griebnitzsee, house 6, room H06 (Tuesdays) or H08 (Mondays).

- **Registration:**
  To register for theoretical sessions, send us your full name and immatriculation number by Monday, April 14, 6pm via email to huber3[at]uni-potsdam.de. Please also indicate a potential group partner. Make sure to sign up for both parts of the course on PULS.

- **Material:**
  The lecture handouts will be available at least one week prior to the respective Q&A session. Moreover, it is advised to consult the papers marked as key readings in the handouts. These papers are available on Moodle.

- **Presentations:**
  In the theoretical sessions, a pre-selected (group of) student(s) will present their take on the main points of the course material. In your own words, summarize the content of the handout. As a rough guide to your presentation, you may consider the following list:

  - What is the main idea of the empirical strategy?
  - What are the identifying assumptions and can they be assessed empirically?
  - What are the main threats to validity of the identification approach?
  - What are the pros and cons of this method?

  We do not expect you to prepare slides (Powerpoint or the like). Presentations should last about 25-30 minutes to allow for some time for questions and discussion. Also prepare 3-5 questions on the material for the rest of the group. If you cannot participate in a presentation due to sickness, please hand in a medical certificate and send it to huber3[at]uni-potsdam.de.

- **Office hours:**
  Prof. Caliendo will be available via Zoom at 11am on the Friday (see time schedule for exact dates) prior to the theory Q&A presentations. These sessions are to assist students having comprehension issues with/ questions on the slide material.

- **Performance:**
  The number of presentations will depend on the number of participants. In each of the 1-2 presentations, the participants can obtain a maximum of 10 points. Unexcused absentees without medical certificate will be awarded zero points. At the end of the semester, we will calculate for each participant the average number of points for all their presentations. You need at least 5 points on average

in order to be admitted for the exam. The obtained average points will serve as bonus points in the final exam.

MA-M-120: Policy Evaluation (2)

General Information on Problem Sets & Oral Presentations

Students will be provided with problem sets during the semester accompanying the topics covered in theoretical sessions. Students are asked to solve the problem sets at home. (Groups of) students will be asked to present their solutions for the problem sets and discuss their solution strategy and results with the other participants during practical sessions. The selection of groups/individual students will be done randomly at the beginning of each practical session.

- **Schedule:**
  There will be 5 practical sessions on Tuesdays, starting on April 29 . All sessions will take place in person from 10.15 - 11.45am at Campus Griebnitzsee, house 6, room H06.

- **Registration:**
  To register for practical sessions, send us your full name and immatriculation number by Monday, April 14, 6pm via email to huber3[at]uni-potsdam.de. Please also indicate a potential group partner. Make sure to sign up for both parts of the course on PULS.

- **Problem sets:**
  The problem sets and data files are distributed at least one week prior to the presentation dates via Moodle2. Each (group of) student(s) is asked to prepare a do-file with all necessary Stata commands to reach the solution. Please submit your do-file via email to huber3[at]uni-potsdam.de on the day prior to the presentation. A written solution or presentation slides or the like are not required.

- **Presentations:**
  In the practical sessions, randomy selected (group of) student(s) will present their solutions. In your oral presentations, you should answer the raised questions of the problem set by running your do-file step by step while sharing your screen with the rest of the group. Explain your strategy to obtain the output and give a sound interpretation of your findings. We do not expect you to prepare slides (Powerpoint or the like). Presentatinos for each task should not exceed 20 minutes. If you cannot participate in a presentation due to sickness, please hand in a medical certificate and send it to huber3[at]uni-potsdam.de.

- **Access to Stata:**
  The university has acquired a Stata-license for you to use on your desktop computer at home during the summer term. In order to obtain this license, you will need to subscribe to Moodle course Stata@Wiso and follow the instructions.
  Here is the link: https://moodle2.uni-potsdam.de/course/view.php?id=42008. We also booked the PC pool in house 1, room 1.65a for you on Monday and Friday, 10-12am. You can use this time to practice or to solve the problem sets with your group.

- **Stata help:**
  Katrin Huber will be available via Zoom at 11am on the day (Mondays) prior to the practical presentations. These sessions are to assist students having problems with Stata and/or comprehension of the relevant methods used.

- **Performance:**
  The number of presentations will depend on the number of participants. In each of the 1-2 presentations, the participants can obtain a maximum of 10 points. Unexcused absentees without medical certificate will be awarded zero points. At the end of the semester, we will calculate for each participant the average number of points for all their presentations. The obtained average points will contribute 25% to the final grade of the practical session. All parts of the practical sessions have to be passed.

MA-M-110 & MA-M-120: Policy Evaluation

Time Schedule SS2025

Week Time	Monday session 10:15 - 11:45	Tuesday session 10:15 - 11:45	Friday session 11:00 - 12:00
07.04.25 - 11.04.25	—	**Kick-Off/ Intro Lecture**	—
14.04.25 - 18.04.25	—	**Intro Lecture (continued)**	Thursday (!): Office Hour (MC)
21.04.25 - 25.04.25	—	**Theory Q&A: Experiments**	—
28.04.25 - 02.05.25	11:00 - Stata Help (KH)	**Problem Set: Experiments**	Office Hour (MC)
05.05.25 - 09.05.25	**Theory Q&A: Matching I**	**Theory Q&A: Matching II**	—
12.05.25 - 16.05.25	11:00 - Stata Help (KH)	**Problem Set: Matching**	Office Hour (MC)
19.05.25 - 23.05.25	**Theory Q&A: DiD I**	**Theory Q&A: DiD II**	—
26.05.25 - 30.05.25	11:00 - Stata Help (KH)	**Problem Set: DiD**	Office Hour (MC)
02.06.25 - 06.06.25	**Theory Q&A: IV I**	**Theory Q&A: IV II**	—
09.06.25 - 13.06.25	—	—	—
16.06.25 - 20.06.25	11:00 - Stata Help (KH)	**Problem Set : IV**	—
23.06.25 - 27.06.25	—	—	Office Hour (MC)
30.06.25 - 04.07.25	**Theory Q&A: RDD I**	**Theory Q&A: RDD II**	—
07.07.25 - 11.07.25	11:00 - Stata Help (KH)	**Problem Set: RDD** & Topics Term Paper	—
14.07.25 - 18.07.25	**PhD Session I**	**PhD Session II**	—
21.07.25 - 25.07.25	—	Deadline Term Paper	—

- **Bold** sessions take place **in person at Campus Griebnitzsee**: Monday sessions in **house 6, H08**, Tuesday sessions in **house 6, H06**. All other sessions are via Zoom with optional participation.
- The **Intro Lecture** (10:15-11:45) provides an introduction to causal inference.
- **Theory Q&A** (10:15-11:45): Students are expected to study the lecture material by themselves (or in groups) **in advance**. Pre-selected groups summarize the main findings and pose open questions (25-30 minutes). Additional input will be provided by the lecturer.
- **Problem Sets** (PS, 10:15-11:45): Randomly selected groups present their solution to the problem set. Discussion and additional input by the lecturer.
- Stata help sessions & office hours (11:00-12:00, Zoom) provide further assistance to students. Participation optional.
- On Monday & Friday from 10:00 to 12:00 students have the opportunity to use the university PC pool to solve the problem sets and prepare the Do-Files. Not mandatory, no assistance.
- There will be an extra session for PhD students covering advanced material.