

MA-S-600: 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 six 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. If the number of students allows, pre-selected groups of students will be asked to prepare an informal presentation of about 15-20 minutes summarizing the main points for each of these topics. If not, students will be asked to do their presentation individually. After that, open questions will be discussed together.

- **Schedule:**

The kick-off session and introductory lecture are scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 and April 25. Q&A sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, May 16, May 30, June 13 and June 27. One session will take place on Friday, on May 19. All sessions will take place in person at Campus Griebnitzsee, house 6, room S12.

- **Registration:**

To register for theoretical sessions, send us your full name and immatriculation number by Monday, April 24, 6pm via email to schmeisser[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 15-20 minutes to allow for some time for questions and discussion. 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:**

Dr. Huber will be available via Zoom from 11.00 to 12.00 on the day (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.