

Social Science Research Methodology: Focusing on Impact Evaluation

Spring 2017

Course Information

Credits:

Meeting Days: Saturday

Meeting Time: 13PM-16PM

Meeting Place: TBD

Professor Information

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1. Course Description and Objectives

This course offers an introduction to social science research methodology focusing on impact evaluation for PhD and master students in the field of development economics, development studies and policy analysis. Impact evaluation is widely used by scholars and donor countries to analyze the changes that can be attributed to an intervention such as a project or policy. Its main goal is to answer the question such as “how would the outcomes have changed if there were no intervention?” by employing a counterfactual analysis.

The aims of this course are:

- To introduce various impact evaluation methodology such as randomized controlled trial (RCT), fixed and random effect, difference-in-difference(DID) and instrumental variable (IV) analysis
- To help student to successfully apply research designs and quantitative methods to their research interest and prepare them for independent research
- To help student to think about causal inference in quantitative observational research
- To gain practical experience with all steps of the process of conducting quantitative research

2. Course Format

Weekly lectures to cover theoretical issues. Case studies will be followed and students are expected to read suggested readings from the literature. Training in STATA will be covered in the selected week to implement replication of case studies discussed in the class.

3. Software

Student will be trained in using STATA to analyze and replicated studies of impact evaluation. STATA is widely used in the field of development economics and impact evaluation. Students are expected to install STATA on their computer in order to complete the problem sets. If you need to purchase a copy, a single-student user 6 month license for Small Stata is available for \$38.

4. Grading

The final grade for the class will be determined by the following elements:

- Empirical Problem sets (45%): Student will replicate the actual evaluation. There will be 3 problem sets.
- Research Proposal (40%):
- Final Written Exam (15%): In class exam. It consists of question about the methodology and case studies discussed in the class. Exam will be graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Please note that no makeup or alternative exams will be given without valid proof.

5. Course Textbooks

Gertler, P. J., Martinez, S., Premand, P., Rawlings, L. B., & Vermeersch, C. M. (2016). *Impact evaluation in practice 2nd edition*. World Bank Publications. (www.worldbank.org/ieinpractice, freedownload)

Angrist, J. D., & Pischke, J. S. (2008). *Mostly harmless econometrics: An empiricist's companion*. Princeton University Press.

Wooldridge, Jeffrey. (2012). *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*.

6. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

Week 1(3/4): Course Instruction and What is Impact Evaluation?

Impact Evaluation in Practice, Chap. 1-2

Center for Global Development. “When will we ever learn? Improving Lives through Impact Evaluation.” Report of the Evaluation Gap Working Group, Washington, D.C.: 2006. Pp. 9-33.

Week 2(3/11) : Causal Inference and Simple regressions review

Impact Evaluation in Practice, Chap. 3

Moffit, R. (2005). Remarks on the Analysis of Causal Relationships in Population Research. *Demography* 42(1): 91-108

Wooldridge, Chapter Chap. 2.

Week 3(3/18) : Multiple regression review

Mostly Harmless, Chap 1, 3

Wooldridge ,Chap 3-7

Week 4(3/25) : Fixed Effect and Random effect Model

Mostly Harmless, chapter 5

Wooldridge, Chap 14.1, 14.2

Week 5(4/1): Randomization 1

Impact Evaluation in practice, Chap 4

Duflo, Esther, Rachel Glennerster, and Michael Kremer. 2008. “Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit”, Chapter 61, *Handbook of Development Economics*. Sections 2.1, 2.2, 3.1., 5.1., 5.2. and 8.2.

Ravallion, Martin. 2008. “Evaluating Anti-Poverty Programs”, Chapter 59, in T. Paul Schultz and John Strauss, ed *Handbook of Development Economics*, vol.4. pp. 3801-3805

Week 6(4/8) : Randomization 2

Duflo, Esther, Pascaline Dupas, and Michael Kremer. March 2014. “School Governance, Teacher Incentives and Pupil-Teacher Ratios: Experimental Evidence from Kenyan Primary Schools. NBER Working Paper #17939.

Dupas, Pascaline. 2011. “Do Teenagers Respond to HIV Risk Information? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. 3(1): 1-34.

Week 7(4/15): Difference in Difference

*Wooldridge, Jeffrey. Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach. Chapter 14.

*GMPRV, Chapter 6

*KKH, Chapter 5.

de Janvry, Alain, Craig McIntosh, and Elisabeth Sadoulet, "The Supply and Demand Side Impacts of Credit Market Information", forthcoming in Journal of Development Economics

Week 8 (4/22): Instrumental Variable 1

Week 9 (4/29) : Instrumental Variable 2

Week 10 (5/6): 수고

Week 11 (5/13): Matching and Propensity Score

Week 12 (5/20): Regression Discontinuity Design

Week 13 (5/27): Regression Discontinuity Design

Week 14(6/3) : Student presentation 1

Week 15(6/10) : Final Exam