Public Policy Analysis

Online course

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/governance
INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Public Policy Analysis

Overview
There is more and more need nowadays for relevant, evidence-based policy making to achieve significant change in our world. In this course, you will be introduced to the fundamentals of public policy analysis in developed and developing settings. Monitoring and evaluation of policies and projects is endorsed by international organizations, NGOs, and national governments to produce meaningful and science-based recommendations on successes and shortfalls of implemented plans. It is therefore imperative for anyone interested in the realm of public policy to have a grasp of what it means to conduct rigorous evaluations.

The course will be divided into four units. The first unit will serve as an introduction to public policy analysis. In the second unit, students will look more in detail at monitoring processes and tools. Unit three and four will be entirely dedicated to the description of impact evaluations methods and their practical application in real world scenarios.

Key Concepts
- Public policy analysis fundamentals
- Theoretical basis and practical application of monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Different impact evaluation techniques

Learning Goals

By the end of the course students should be able to:
- Understand the basis of public policy analysis and evidence-based public policy
- Understand the distinction between monitoring and evaluation
- Understand the different types of data used in policy evaluation and their sources.
- Understand the different types of monitoring and its evolution through time
- Be able to critically assess when monitoring is preferable to impact evaluation
- Understand the different analytical methods used to perform impact evaluation
- Grasp the statistics behind experimental and quasi-experimental techniques.
- Overall, the student should be able to critically reflect on the literature provided and be able to distil this knowledge into their own country context.

COURSE OUTLINE
1. Unit 1: Why evaluate?
2. Unit 2: Monitoring
3. Unit 3: Impact evaluation I
4. Unit 4: Impact evaluation II
• **LEARNING MATERIALS**

1. **Lectures / Video Recordings**
   - Lecture slides are provided online
   - There are introductory video recordings for each module.

2. **Readings**

   **REQUIRED**


   Alkire, S., & Samman, E. (2014). Mobilising the household data required to progress toward the SDGs


   Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation & ETHZ, NADEL Centre. What are impact evaluations?


   Rubin, 1974. Estimating causal effects of treatments in randomised and non-randomised studies

   Angrist, 1990. Lifetime earnings and the Vietnam era draft lottery: evidence from social security administrative records


**FURTHER READING**

Christopher Scott, Measuring Up the Measurement Problem, January 2005.

Output vs. Outcome, from medium.com (accessed via: https://medium.com/@marisamorby/output-vs-outcome-8a82a51c467f)


Deaton and Cartwright, Understanding and misunderstanding randomized controlled trials, Social Science & Medicine, Volume 210, August 2018, Pages 2-21.


Adriana Camacho and Emily Conover (2011) “Manipulation of Social Program Eligibility” AEJ: Economic Policy
• REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

1. Introduction videos
   • You are required to watch the introductory video recording for each module

2. Discussion Forum
   • You are advised to interact with others on the discussion forum to share ideas and knowledge. Online tutors will also be available to help.

3. Assignments
   • There is one assignment per unit. All four assignment contribute to the final grade. Self-assessment quizzes are also part of the exercises.

• GRADING PROCEDURE

Four assignments will contribute 25% each towards the final grade. A final oral examination is also part of the grading process to assess acquired knowledge.

• TIMELINE

1. Module order and time schedule
   • The course will begin with unit 1 in the first week. Each successive unit will be covered over 1 week. The course should cover a total of four weeks.

2. Deadlines required activities (specific time and day, CET time and verify the online platform is adjusted carefully – consider time added or time exactly set in the upload).
   • Students will be asked to complete an assignment at the end of each module.
• CONTACT DETAILS

Course developers
➢ Dr. Bruno Martorano bruno.martorano@maastrichtuniversity.nl
➢ Francesco Iacoella iacoella@merit.unu.edu
➢ Alex Hunns hunns@merit.unu.edu
➢ Sten Ritterfeld sten.ritterfeld@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Support staff
➢ Francesco Iacoella. iacoella@merit.unu.edu
➢ Alex Hunns. hunns@merit.unu.edu

ELEUM Coordinator
➢ Kirsten Haaland. Haaland@merit.unu.edu

Student Affairs
➢ Mieke Drossaert. drossaert@merit.unu.edu

Online Course programme manager
➢ Dr. Mindel van de Laar Mindel.vandelaar@maastrichtuniversity.nl