Master Public Policy and Human Development

At the end of the fall semester, students choose one of the following areas of specialisation:

- Social Protection Policy (in co-operation with the ILO)
- Foreign Policy and Development
- Migration Studies
- Risk and Vulnerability (in co-operation with UNU-EHS)
- Regional Integration & Multi-Level Governance (in co-operation with UNU-CRIS)
- Innovation, Institutions & Development

The education director is available to assist students with the selection of specialisations, taking into account preferences, career goals and previous training.

For a detailed description of each specialisation, please consult [our brochure](#).

Master's Programme

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Public Policy

Full course description

This course serves as common ground for the MPP. It introduces students with main concepts and dynamics that will be deepened further on the succeeding courses. The course introduces the policy process and public policy in general. The policy process and the behavior of its participants are examined from a theoretical perspective. Public policy is examined as a process, introducing students to a systematic way for the understanding of public policy, while allowing for insightful discussions. The course therefore examines how policies are formulated, implemented, and evaluated; and addresses the roles of multiple players along the policy process.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Course objectives

The goal of the course is to understand how and by whom public policy is made through the perspective of different theories.

Recommended reading

Reader

MPP4301
Period 1
4 Sep 2017
29 Sep 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [J. Marotta](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Written exam, Final paper, Participation
Keywords:
• Governance • Public Policy • Policy Process
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Public Economics

Full course description

This course analyzes the public sector including the allocation of resources and the redistribution of income. It discusses the role of the public sector, the difference between private and public goods, public choice and externalities. Tax policy is introduced, relying on two broad principles: equity and efficiency. The key public expenditure categories are analysed. Finally, the course looks at the situation of developing countries and the role of public finance in such a context.

Course objectives

The aim of this course is to allow students to understand the role of the government and the way public sector intervention influences individuals and the economy. This is achieved by applying the tools of microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis to government actions both on the revenue and the expenditure side. One specific goal is also to have students achieve a solid economic understanding of the functioning of key tax instruments and expenditure programs. The approach of the course is based on a series of lectures based on textbook material complemented with ample practical examples. There are also exercise sessions and a group assignment with presentation – which requires reading more advanced economic literature in a specific domain.

Recommended reading

Gruber, Jonathan. 2012. Public Finance and Public Policy, 4th edition. New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 978-1429278454

MPP4302
Period 1
2 Oct 2017
27 Oct 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [L.F. Krebs](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Participation, Presentation, Written exam, Assignment
Keywords:
Public Economics; Taxation; Public expenditure; Redistribution; Inequality
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Public Policy Analysis

Full course description

Formulation and implementation of public policies are an important responsibility of modern governments. Policy objectives and instruments get determined in the interaction between public authorities and stakeholders. Actors and institutions such as branches of government (including the executive, legislative and judiciary), political parties, interest groups, regulatory agencies, and non-governmental organizations and citizens are involved in policymaking to varying degrees, depending on the particular policy domain and phase of the policy process. In this course, we explore ways in which public policies (and their impact) are analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods. The results serve as a basis to formulate informed evidence-based policies, or to improve already implemented policies.

Course objectives

The aim of this course is to provide a practical introduction to how public policies are analyzed. It is designed to help students develop the skills required to critically analyze policy issues using quantitative and qualitative methods (e.g. poverty and inequality calculations, impact evaluation), to interpret outcomes, and to articulate relevant decision-making criteria for policy analysis.

Prerequisites

- Successful participation in quantitative track during periods 1a and 1b

Master Public Policy and Human Development

- Successful completion of Public Policy (MPP4301)

Recommended reading

- Gertler P., Martinez S., Premand P., Rawlings L. and C. Vermeersch (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. Washington DC: The World Bank.
- Haughton J. and S. Khandker (2009). *Handbook on Poverty and Inequality*. Washington DC: The World Bank.

- Stock, J. H. and M. W. Watson (2015), Introduction to Econometrics, Update, 3rd Edition

- Reader

MPP4504
Period 2
30 Oct 2017
22 Dec 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
8.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- [F. Gassmann](#)
- [B. Martorano](#)

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL, Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Participation, Written exam
Keywords:
Public Policy Analysis, Impact evaluation, Evidence- based decision making
Specialisation courses

Migration Studies

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Introduction to Migration Studies

Full course description

What really motivates people to migrate? This course gives an introduction into the field of migration studies. Preparing students for the more focused courses that will follow; the introduction covers such topics as the actual flows and trends of migration and remittances; demography and historical developments; theories of migration from different disciplines such as economics and sociology; different types of migrants and generational issues as well as an introduction to comparative migration studies.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to give a broad overview of migration studies, the major theories of the movement of people (and money) and familiarity with country cases.

Recommended reading

- Castles, Stephen, Hein de Haas, and Mark. J. Miller. 2014 The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World. Fifth revised and updated edition ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire and London: MacMillan Pres ltd,.
- Reader

MGR4105
Period 4
5 Feb 2018
9 Mar 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.J. Siegel](#)

Teaching methods:
PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Final paper, Participation, Presentation
Keywords:
Migration; Immigration; Emigration; Migrant; Refugee; Remittance
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Migration and Remittance Effects

Full course description

Is migration good or bad for the migrant receiving country and what effects does it have on the sending country? What about the money sent by migrants back to their home countries? Does this have only positive effects? These are some of the issues that are touched on in this class. Special attention is paid to labour market issues in the receiving country and development issues in the sending country.

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to explore both the positive and negative effects of migration and remittances in the migrant sending and receiving countries.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Recommended reading

- Castles, Stephen, Hein de Haas, and Mark. J. Miller. 2014 The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World. Fifth revised and updated edition ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire and London: MacMillan Pres ltd,.
- Reader

MGR4206
Period 4
12 Mar 2018
6 Apr 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.J. Siegel](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Final paper, Participation, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
Migration; Remittance; Development; Immigration; Emigration; Poverty
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Data Collection and Analysis for Migration Studies

Full course description

This course aims to give a practical taste of what it is like to work in the area of migration studies, both collecting data and analyzing it. The course will consist of learning both quantitative and qualitative modes of data collection and analysis. The course is set up in a series of workshops focusing on different methods of data collection and analysis. Methodologies that are covered in individual workshops include: survey design and implementations, in-depth interviews, focus groups, scenario analysis, econometric issues in migration studies, etc. During this course, students are already able to develop and refine the tools they will use for their thesis.

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to ensure that students are both comfortable with and capable of using the major data methodologies in migration studies.

Recommended reading

- Reader

MGR4307

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Period 5
16 Apr 2018
11 May 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.J. Siegel](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Participation
Keywords:
Migration Surveys Questionnaire Focus group Interviews Methods
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Comparative Migration Policy

Full course description

The final course in this specialisation deals with immigration and integration policy. Migration policy is a hot topic in most developed countries. It is the talk of political parties and a subject in new elections. We explore migration entry and integration policies for different types of migrants across different receiving countries. A special comparative focus is made between Europe and the United States and other major migrant receiving regions regarding integration policy as well as ethnic relations. The sending policies of origin countries are also studied: do they encourage or discourage migrations and from which groups? Diaspora engagement with a focus on activating the diapora for development is also covered in this course.

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to make students familiar with different types of migration policies and the causes and consequences of these policies.

Recommended reading

- Castles, Stephen, Hein de Haas, and Mark. J. Miller. 2014 The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World. Fifth revised and updated edition ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire and London: MacMillan Pres ltd,.
- Reader

MGR4408
Period 5
14 May 2018
8 Jun 2018
[Print course description](#)

Master Public Policy and Human Development

ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.J. Siegel](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Participation
Keywords:
Migration; Immigration; Immigrant; Integration; Assimilation; Social cohesion; Policy; Emigration

Risk and Vulnerability

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Full course description

Hurricane Matthew, the Ebola virus epidemic, intercontinental cyber-attacks and conflicts in Iraq, South Sudan or Colombia are just some of the recent examples where natural, socio-natural and social hazards revealed societal vulnerabilities to extreme events. Identifying patterns and trends that decrease risks and vulnerabilities is paramount for advancing inclusive, safe and sustained development in the light of climate variability, socio-technological transformation and global interconnectedness. What are key factors and indicators that allow characterizing vulnerability and risk to extreme and hazardous events including climate change? How to assess and evaluate societal capacities to cope and adapt to changing environmental, socio- economic and geo-political conditions worldwide? And finally, how can assessment and monitoring systems inform disaster risk prevention and reduction processes of both state and non-state actors at different multi-governance levels? This course will address and discuss these questions among others, given known, emerging and unknown extreme events.

Course objectives

The course aims to advance students' knowledge about disaster risks and vulnerabilities due to naturally occurring extreme events (geophysical, hydrological), human-induced hazards (financial, biomedical, internet crises) and socio-natural hazards (such as the Fukushima nuclear disaster that was triggered by a tsunami). Students will learn on how to identify and explain key determinants of vulnerability and risk as well as how to evaluate disaster risk assessments and climate change mitigation instruments. A key objective of the course will be to show how such assessments are structured and conducted, how communities at risk are involved, and finally how these risk and vulnerability assessments are applied in governance processes. At the end of the course, students will also be able to use several geo-information science (GIS) tools and techniques in risk exposure mapping and analysis. Students will also gain insights into key international organizations involved in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation including the UNISDR and UNFCCC.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Recommended reading

- Reader

RSK4105
Period 4
5 Feb 2018
9 Mar 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- [L.F. Krebs](#)
- D.M. Mbuvi

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s), Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
Disaster risk mapping & trend analysis; Multidimensional vulnerability & risk assessment; Climate change, environmental transformation & technological innovation; Early warning & risk prevention; Disaster risk preparedness; Geo-information science (GIS) techniques
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Building Resilience and Adaptive Governance

Full course description

Crises and disasters cannot always be avoided. As such, building resilience and promoting adaptive governance are key issues in international discourse on how to respond to increasing frequencies and magnitudes of geophysical risks, geopolitical catastrophes, ICT hazards and severe meteorological events among other extreme phenomena (Chorafas et al. 2001; Adams, 1995). In this course, we learn from crises and develop cross-cutting strategies for more resilient and adaptive systems (infrastructural, social, ecological, etc) across multiple sectors, globally.

Course objectives

The course aims to develop an interdisciplinary perspective of resilience and adaptive governance in the light of social-ecological, geopolitical, environmental and technological transformation. The course will be informed by research undertaken in the fields of disaster risk reduction, development research, climate change adaptation, reconstruction & recovery and earth system governance. The first part of the course will deal with the different conceptual and theoretical approaches of disaster risk governance. The second part on the other hand, will examine practical case studies on how resilience building can be examined from the household (micro-perspective) to the national (macro-perspective) levels. Special emphasis will be given to the evaluation and identification of learning processes and changes before, during and after disasters. In this regard, students will also examine different risk financing instruments as well as explore different roles and mandates by relevant

Master Public Policy and Human Development

stakeholder at different governance levels.

Recommended reading

- Reader

RSK4206
Period 4
12 Mar 2018
6 Apr 2018
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- L.F. Krebs
- D.M. Mbuvi

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s), Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
Disaster risk reduction & response; Resilience building; Reconstruction and recovery; Adaptive governance; Climate change adaptation; Innovative risk financing
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Risk Management in Crisis Situations

Full course description

Since the middle of the 20th Century, increasingly sophisticated technical models have been developed to manage risks. Yet, no model is flawless and, once in a while, "bad events'' happen. Controversies have escalated as a result of such failures, from the BSE crisis in the food sector to the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents in the Nuclear field. Major scandals raise questions about public confidence and expectations. In regulatory and Industry circles, the decline of trust in science and government combined with a stronger involvement of stakeholders leads to increasing worries that any event may lead to a full-fudged crisis. Are these worries justified? What could be done to manage crises better? Risk studies bring a crucial insight to tackle crises in a challenging governance environment. Key variables such as perceptions, feelings, trust and social amplification have been shown to affect individual and social attitudes in the face of risk events. During this module, students will capitalize on this knowledge to analyze crisis situations in the post-trust environment. Two critical sectors have been selected from which students will develop projects: (i) Health & Safety (ii) Drugs & Vaccines.
RSK4307
Period 5
16 Apr 2018
11 May 2018
Print course description

Master Public Policy and Human Development

ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

- [L.F. Krebs](#)
- [F.E. Bouder](#)
- D.M. Mbuvi

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Presentation, Take home exam
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Risk communication: the last frontier?

Full course description

Risk communication appears as a relatively new discipline within risk analysis. It has emerged from the risk perception studies developed from the 1970s onwards. In only few decades risk communication theory has contributed strong evidence about what sort of risk communication works best, for example two-way (Fischhoff 1995), proactive (Löfstedt 2005) and non-persuasive (Fischhoff 2007) communications. Unlike risk assessment and crisis management most Government and Industries have yet to take this new science on board. Many practices are lagging behind the state of the art. Yet, the need for adaptation has become critical due to mounting pressures to share decision-making with NGOs and to open government to more transparency. In that sense risk communication may be described as the last frontier of risk analysis.

Course objectives

The course aims to advance the knowledge about risk communication, arguably a crucial but neglected and misunderstood aspect of risk analysis. The first part of the course will focus on assimilating the critical lessons brought by forty years of risk communication science. The second part of the course will situate these lessons in the context of the current trends towards more participative, open and transparent risk governance. A key objective of the course will be to allow students to envisage risk communication strategies that strengthen rather than undermine risk analysis. Students will be confronted to situations where the changing nature of power relationships requires effective risk communication. The specific issues of Climate Change and Global Health issues – especially pandemics- will be taken as focal examples.
RSK4408
Period 5
14 May 2018
8 Jun 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinators:

Master Public Policy and Human Development

- [L.F. Krebs](#)
- [F.E. Bouder](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Take home exam

Regional Integration and Multi-Level Governance

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Introduction to Regions

Full course description

The course will lay the ground for the specialization on comparative regional integration and serve a basis for the subsequent 3 courses. It will address key analytical questions, such as what a region is, what different conceptions of regions exist, do regions have to have identity, why do actors cooperate regionally, whether regions evolve 'naturally' or they can be constructed purposely. In answering these questions, different theories explaining regional cooperation will be covered. The course will take care to bring students from different academic backgrounds—economics, political science, public policy—to a common basis. To this goal, it will emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of the study of regions. Different conceptions of regions will be introduced in a historical perspective; causes and consequences of regional cooperation will be considered from both economic and political perspectives.

Course objectives

This course provides students with the theoretical foundation required to understand and study regions and processes of regional integration. It focuses on the definition of key concepts, including regions, regionalism, regional integration and regional governance.
RIG4105
Period 4
5 Feb 2018
9 Mar 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [T. Skripka](#)

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Research, Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper, Presentation
Keywords:
Regions; Regional Integration; Regionalism; Regional Governance

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Comparative Regionalism

Full course description

This course will take over from the theory-oriented introductory course to explore practices of regional cooperation in different parts of the world. It will study regionalisms in Asia, Europe, and Latin America, as well as Africa and North America, in a comparative perspective. Regionalisms will be compared on the basis of their form and substance. Empirical focus of the course will allow substantiating the notions of formal and informal, political and economic regionalisms. Analysis of the institutional dimension of regional cooperation will build bridges to the introductory course on the one hand, and the next course on multi-level governance on the other hand. The course will pay particular attention to methodological aspects of doing comparative research on regionalisms.

Course objectives

The Learning Goals of this course are double: On the one hand, the students will be familiarized with the methodological aspects and problems related to the design and development of comparative research projects on regional governance and integration. These include issues related to concepts, typologies, research questions, theories, empirical methods, data etc. On the other hand, students will get an overview of how regionalism is actually taking place in different parts of the world.

Recommended reading

- Reader

RIG4206
Period 4
12 Mar 2018
6 Apr 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.K. Natorski](#)

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Research, Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Final paper, Presentation, Participation
Keywords:
Comparative regionalism; Applied research methods
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Regionalism and Multi-Level Governance

Full course description

This course will approach the phenomenon of multi-level governance from both analytical and empirical perspectives. It will explore how governance manifests itself on different levels, such as local, sub- national, national, international, as well as sub-regional, regional, and inter-regional. It will study how policymakers at different levels share or compete for policy responsibilities and which effects this has on practices and output of sectoral governance. The course will also address the issues of legitimacy and democratic accountability of multi- level governance. Empirically, the course will primarily focus on the EU, but will also consider regional actors and entities beyond Europe. The course will explore how an integrated policy process connecting various actors and levels of governance may function under direct control of supranational actors, such as the EU or international organizations, but also in absence of direct, formal control mechanisms.

Course objectives

The goal of the course is to acquant the students with the key concepts, debates, and theoretical approaches to multi-level governance. Discussions of readings coming from EU studies, comparative politics, and public policy will equip the students with a wide set of tools for analyzing policymaking at different levels. By the end of the couse, the students will have acquired in-depth knowledge of theory and practices of multi-level governnance in the EU and beyond.
RIG4307
Period 5
16 Apr 2018
11 May 2018
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- T. Skripka

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Research, Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Presentation
Keywords:
Regionalism;Multi-level Governance;European Union;Policymaking
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Research Seminar:Topical Issues in Comparative Regionalism

Full course description

The final course will take the format of a seminar to introduce themes and hot topics in the current research on regional integration and multi-level governance. Invited speakers will talk about their

research projects relevant for the specialization, for example, regional dimension of security challenges (terrorism, fragile states), climate change, democracy and human rights diffusion, institutionalization of regional cooperation, and the like. Importantly, the course will consider the specificities in the institutional design of the main regional entities and how they are adapted to address shared challenges.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, students will have acquired a better understanding of how different regional entities have designed their institutions and organs to respond to specific contemporary challenges. In this regard, efforts will also be made to discuss the role of regional institutions in responding to some of the challenges underlain by the economic crisis and broader international shifts. Besides the discussion of specific challenges, students will design the concept of problem-solving project addressing discussed challenges.

Recommended reading

- Reader

RIG4408
Period 5
14 May 2018
8 Jun 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.K. Natorski](#)

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Research, Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper, Presentation, Participation, Assignment
Keywords:
Regional institutions/organs; Regional challenges; Projects and Logical Framework Analysis

Innovation, Institutions and Development

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Innovation and the Global Income Distribution

Full course description

This course looks at how the global economy developed in the long run. The emphasis is on the comparative growth performance of countries, i.e., on how average living standards between countries diverged or converged. We consider the global economic environment in which these

trends took place, using basic macroeconomic theory. In the final part of the course, we look at how the production and use of technological knowledge is distributed in the world, how this relates to the global income distribution between countries, and how these trends can be interpreted using the basic theory of economic growth.

In this respect, this course provides a general introduction to the economic perspective on human development. It is the introductory course in the Innovation, Institutions and Development specialization of the MPP programme. The course looks in some detail at economic theories explaining unequal human development. It covers both the basic theoretical framework, and extensions to this framework. The course makes extensive use of empirical materials, and cases from the actual policy context. The latter is aimed at the UN system, with a focus on parts of the UN that are actively engaged in human development policy (in particular UNDP).

Course objectives

- To become acquainted with the basic economic facts and theories about globalization, .particularly diverging growth performances and their impact on the distribution of world-income
- To become acquainted with the (measured) influence of technical change on these economic matters and how to observe those 'facts' and how to make sense of such facts through the application of theoretical frameworks that provide logical connections between those facts.
- To become acquainted with both the subject matter and the methodologies used in researching the subject matter by studying capita selecta from the vast body of literature on the subject matter and by doing assignments which are meant to sharpen students' problem-solving skills as well as research-imagination.

Recommended reading

- Reader

IID4105
Period 4
5 Feb 2018
9 Mar 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [A.H. van Zon](#)

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
Innovation; Globalization; Income Distribution Trends; Average Living Standards; Comparative Growth Analysis; Human Development; Technological Knowledge; United Nations Development Programme; Problem-Solving Skills; Quantitative Research Skills

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Innovation and Development Patterns around the Globe

Full course description

In this course, we look at four major regions in the world, Latin- America, Asia, Africa, and the developed world (Europe, North America, Australia). The emphasis is on describing, analysing and understanding the relative growth performance of the countries in these regions. An important question is how governments contributed to development, especially in terms of policies that facilitate technology transfer. We also pay attention to the role of multinational companies, international institutions (e.g., WTO, World Bank), and intellectual property rights.

In this sense, the course builds on and extends the previous course (Recommended / IID4105 Innovation and Global Income Distribution). The big gaps in the world income distribution come from gaps in productivity levels. Innovation in order to catch up in many developing countries was absent until recently, therefore the course concentrates on searching for information country wise (to be collected in a paper: one country investigated by one student). Moreover, students in the course review new literature on innovation in developing countries.

Course objectives

- To gain understanding about the variety of development patterns and industrial policies across the global economy.
- To learn efficient policy measures to tackle development, industrial and global economic problems.
- To learn about conditions under which technical progress, growth and globalization are beneficial or disastrous.
- To learn about conditions under which globalization enhances growth rates.
- To understand global economic development based on orientation knowledge.
- To learn screening new literature.

Prerequisites

Recommended: Completion of Innovation and Global Income Distribution (IID4105)

Recommended reading

- Reader

IID4206
Period 4
12 Mar 2018
6 Apr 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Coordinator:

- [T.H.W. Ziesemer](#)

Teaching methods:
PBL
Assessment methods:
Participation, Presentation, Written exam, Assignment
Keywords:
Keywords: Innovation; Development pattern analysis; Comparative growth analysis; Major world regions; Developing countries; Globalization ;Technology transfer; Multinational companies; International institutions (WTO, World Bank); Intellectual property rights; Industrial policy analysis; Literature search; Quantitative research skills
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Innovation Systems in the Global Economy

Full course description

Innovation does not occur in isolation, but instead is a process in which multiple actors (firms, consumers, universities, public research institutes, etc.) work together with the aim of developing, using and diffusing knowledge. Such process is by no means linear, and takes place within a certain economic, social, technological and political environment. The specific way in which interactions between actors in the innovation process take place is often analysed using the concept of "systems of innovation". Such systems have geographic dimensions (regional, national), as well as sectoral dimensions (sectoral systems of innovation). This course looks at these various notions of innovation systems, using an applied perspective (i.e., analysing cases of specific innovation systems in the developed and developing world). Special emphasis is put on the role of public institutions such as universities and public research institutes in the emergence and functioning of innovation systems. The System of Innovation (SI) framework can be used as a "focusing devise" to analyse the underlying complexity behind the innovation process for policy purposes. In that sense, it is a useful concept to approach policy problems from a comprehensive perspective. This course is based on a systemic view of the economic process, where productivity is not only the result from accumulation of production factors. This course looks at the role of institutions, organizations and the connection between them to open the scope for policy action. The SI literature is a guide for policy makers around the world to design, monitor and evaluate policy interventions aimed to enhance productivity and sustainable growth. Wherever a tailor-made strategy is needed, the SI framework can provide the initial steps to understand the bottlenecks to be tackled trough policy initiatives.

Course objectives

- Understand the concept of innovation and systems of innovation (SI)
- Understand the rationale behind innovation policy
- Understand the nature of the innovation process in the firm
- Use a broad range of quantitative indicators to measure the SI's performance and understand their limitations
- Use the SI framework as a tool for policy analysis
- Be familiar with emerging trends in the application of the SI approach
- Understand the on-going debate regarding the challenges and limitations of the SI framework.

Recommended reading

- Reader

IID4307
Period 5
16 Apr 2018
11 May 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [K. Haaland](#)

Teaching methods:
PBL, Presentation(s), Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Participation, Presentation, Written exam, Assignment
Keywords:
Innovation; Innovation processes in ferms; Systems of innovation; Innovation systems indicators; Innovation system Analysis; Regional clusters; Networks; Knowledge spillovers; Emerging innovation trends
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Science, Technology & Innovation Policy

Full course description

This course investigates the policy realm of science, technology and innovation. The course starts with an historical overview of how these policies emerged. The next stage investigates several theoretical concepts that are used to design and implement these policies, such as innovation systems and market failure. This part of the course establishes a broad framework that explains why government policy may contribute to enhance welfare in society at large. The final part of the course looks at specific policy instruments in the field of science, technology and innovation policy, and reviews a number of techniques that can be used to evaluate the efficiency and impact of these instruments. This course is the final course in the specialization on Innovation, Institutions and Development. In this course, we apply gained knowledge from earlier courses in the specialisation to the topic of governance and policy. The main question addressed in this course is how knowledge and innovation can be utilized for development and what role government can or should play in this. In line with the previous courses in the specialisation track, development is not only understood as a process in which low/middle income countries catch up to the high-income world, but also as a process of qualitative change that affects all aspects of society. This notion of development applies equally well to developed and developing countries (as we traditionally classify them). Yet as the nature and role of innovation is different between developed and developing countries, the policies aimed at knowledge and innovation will also differ between these two broad groups of countries.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Course objectives

- To obtain a vision of how governance works in different contexts.
- To understand the specific factors influencing science, technology and innovation policy.
- To understand the rationale, working and evaluation of science, technology and innovation policy instruments in development context.

Recommended reading

- Reader

IID4408
Period 5
14 May 2018
8 Jun 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- S. Turkeli

Teaching methods:
PBL
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Participation, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
Innovation policy;Science and technology policy;Policy evaluation

Social Protection Policy

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

The Global Challenge: Beyond Poverty & Inequality

Full course description

The evidence of growing world poverty & inequality is compelling. There is global challenge to move beyond sheer descriptions and consider holistic frameworks that will give the poor and vulnerable a sustainable access to the resources they need to be self-sufficient and have the "capability" to contribute in their societies. And while the common perception is that, it is developing countries which experience severe poverty and/or inequality; this also extends to developed and industrialized countries. This course presents the students with a wide range of concepts, definitions, and theories of poverty and inequality. The main objective is to increase the students' familiarity with the diversity and complexity of the issues: Poverty, its forms and root causes; inequality and its causes; measurement of poverty and inequality, risks and vulnerability, patterns of economic and social development, migration as a form of social protection, morbidity patters and health, demographic developments, formal an informal labour markets, social impacts of macro-economic (fiscal, monetary) policy, global governance and international institutions, regional aspects. The

measurement of poverty and inequality is discussed and practiced in-depth in order to equip the students with the basic technical skills to understand and to design poverty/inequality reduction policies. Lectures, interactive seminars and an extensive assignment aiming at learning how to plan and to conduct an elementary poverty & inequality assessment are part of the course tools.

Course objectives

The course equips the students with the building stones for a conceptual and theoretical framework and with the basic technical skills in order to define the array of problems that social protection analysts have to address and to intuitively grasp the logic and design poverty and inequality reduction policies.

Recommended reading

- Comim, F., Qizilbash, M., & Alkire, S. (2008). The capability approach: concepts, measures and applications. Cambridge Univ Press.
- Haughton, J., & Khandker, S. R. (2009). Handbook on Poverty and Inequality. Washington D.C.: World Bank Publications.

SPP4205
Period 4
5 Feb 2018
9 Mar 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [Z. Nimeh](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s), Paper(s), Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
poverty, inequality, Vulnerability & Social Justice
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Understanding Social Protection: from Justification to Intervention

Full course description

How do established frameworks of social protection and development view poverty and inequality? How does it vary depending on the income level of the country? What are the different mechanisms that are applied to deal with problems of poverty and inequality? Is the welfare state the only way? In this course the students will be introduced to the socio- economic justification behind social protection, and the political economy setting and the different components of the state intervention.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

A contrast will be made among established welfare states, emerging welfare states and others. The course will present the history of the welfare state, while conducting an in-depth study of the range of state interventions (i.e. types of benefits and interventions: social assistance, universal benefit schemes , social insurance schemes, mandated private insurance , the new generation of conditional and unconditional cash transfers, and others), the economic effects of the welfare interventions, the political economy of government interventions, potential effects of benefits on poverty and income distributions (static micro analytical practice) and stakeholder interest analysis. Various examples would be given on different levels of state interventions.

Course objectives

This course presents a comprehensive introduction to social protection policy. It provides an overview of the development of the main issues, theories and practices regarding the design and the implementation of social protection and social safety nets in advanced economies, as well as contrasting them to emerging and developing economies. The students will be equipped with the knowledge that is needed identify the range of policy options to address the global social challenge for developed and developing economies.

Recommended reading

- Castles, F. G., Leibfried, S., & Lewis, J. (2010). The Oxford handbook of the welfare state. Oxford Univ Press
- Grosh, M. E., Del Ninno, C., Tesliuc, E. D., & Ouerghi, A. (2008). For protection and promotion: The design and implementation of effective safety nets. World Bank. Additional articles will be included

SPP4206
Period 4
12 Mar 2018
6 Apr 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [Z. Nimeh](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s), Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Presentation, Presentation and paper
Keywords:
Social Protection Policy; The Welfare State; Safety Nets; Political Economy; Policy Microsimulation
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Quantitative Techniques for Social Protection Policy Design

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Full course description

When social protection is regarded as an obstacle to growth it is most likely that governance seriously mismanaged the finances of social protection systems that were presumably well designed in principle. One prerequisite for developing a system of governance for the social sector is to know what the present overall level of expenditure is, where money is spent, which needs remain unmet, and how the overall national social expenditure, as well as the financial burden for the different financers of the system develop under different economic scenarios and different reform options. In providing students with clear social accounting and meaningful projection systems, this course offers one of the essential factual bases for national social policy. The course will introduce participants to the main components of the social budgeting process, that is: - The demographic and economic frames of social budgeting. - The methodologically consistent compilation of (1) the revenues and expenditures of a country's social protection system over a certain period of the past, which is called the Social Accounting System; and (2) the "physical", other "monetary" and legal entities determining the development of the financial flows; - Forecasting social protection income and expenditure (budget projection) for a medium-term period and/or simulations of social expenditure and revenues under alternative economic, demographic and/or legislative assumptions.

Course objectives

The main objective of this course is to give the students the knowledge necessary to establish a social accounting system, undertake social budget projections and use actuarial analysis for policy making.

Recommended reading

- Scholz, Wolfgang, Michael Cichon and Krzysztof Hagemejer. 2000. Social Budgeting. Geneva: International Labour Organization/International Social Security Association. ISBN: 9789221108610
- Reader

SPP4408
Period 5
16 Apr 2018
11 May 2018
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- Z. Nimeh

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s), Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Participation, Assignment
Keywords:

Master Public Policy and Human Development

National Accounts; Social Protection; Pensions
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Financing Social Protection

Full course description

In any society, social transfers account for a substantial part of national income. Distributive machines of this scale should be designed and operated with the utmost care to pursue the realization of socially, economically and fiscally optimal results. How do we finance a certain overall level of social protection? Or a certain new benefit (by taxes, through contributions, through private payments)? - Who is paying for what in the social protection system? - What would be the likely effect of the system, a new scheme or a new benefit on economic performance, on the government budget, other benefits in the system and the income distribution? - How do we organize the financial management and governance in such a way that best use is made of scarce resources? The objective enables financial analysts to acquire the knowledge and This course will include an examination of the interaction between social protection, the economy and fiscal policy, social protection and economic growth, the determinants of social expenditure, financing systems for different benefits, notable pensions including the pension funding debate investments of social security reserves, building economic scenarios, basic techniques of budgetary projections, taxation vs. contribution financing, alternative cost/effective options to deliver benefits, financial governance and performance indicators.

Course objectives

The objective of this course is to provide financial analysts in the social protection sector with a methodological toolbox for sound resource management in social protection which permits them - To design and maintain a system of financing of national social protection systems that ensures an effective and efficient use of available resources on the community, national and international level, and - To assist in the policy process that explores and ultimately defines desirable levels and scope of social protection in a given country. The objective enables financial analysts to acquire the knowledge and acquire the skills to answer to questions of policy makers of the following type: - How do we finance a certain overall level of social protection? Or a certain new benefit (by taxes, through contributions, through private payments)? - Who is paying for what in the social protection system? - What would be the likely effect of the system, a new scheme or a new benefit on economic performance, on the government budget, other benefits in the system and the income distribution? - How do we organize the financial management and governance in such a way that best use is made of scarce resources?

Recommended reading

- Cichon, Michael, Wolfgang Scholz, Arthur van de Meerendonk, Krzysztof Hagemejer, Fabio Bertranou and Pierre Plamondon. 2004. Financing Social Protection. Geneva: International Labour Organization/International Social Security Association. ISBN: 9789221151227
- Reader

SPF4105
Period 5
14 May 2018

Master Public Policy and Human Development

8 Jun 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [Z. Nimeh](#)

Teaching methods:
PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Attendance, Participation, Assignment, Written exam
Keywords:
Social Expenditure; Fiscal Space; Financing mechanisms; Taxes

Foreign Policy and Development

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

International Trade: Theory, Policy, Environment and Development

Full course description

In principle, international trade and factor movements are advantageous for the citizens of countries. Households can buy goods and (factor) services where they are cheaper. Firms can specialize in goods in which they are better than their international competitors, making them cheaper again for households. This is the basic idea behind trade liberalization. However, there are disadvantages as well, which are well known not to overthrow the advantages if taken into account properly by economic policy. Many of them are not taken into account though: they are mostly ignored in the trade negotiations and abused as arguments in favor of protectionism. This course teaches the basics needed to understand these conflicts and find sophisticated solutions. This course also starts our skills-training series in foreign policy: a multi-day simulation of international negotiations.

Course objectives

Acquisition of broad orientational knowledge to understand international economic flows and their effects on national economies. Practicing presentation skills.

Prerequisites

Basis microeconomics from first semester

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Recommended reading

- Reader

FPD4105
Period 4
5 Feb 2018
9 Mar 2018
Print course description
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- T.H.W. Ziesemer

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), PBL, Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Written exam, Participation, Presentation
Keywords:
• Economics • Trade • Factor Movements • Environment • Development • Negotiation
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization

Full course description

There is a broad consensus among economists and policymakers that economic globalization in general, and international trade in particular, may offer an unprecedented opportunity to eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide. In 2001, the World Bank estimated that abolishing all trade barriers could increase global income by 2.8 trillion US dollars and lift 320 million people out of poverty by 2015. However, to ensure that this opportunity is realised, economic globalization and international trade has to be managed and regulated at the international level. If not, economic globalization and international trade are likely to be a curse, rather than a blessing to humankind, aggravating economic inequality, social injustice, environmental degradation and cultural dispossession. The World Trade Organization and its law are at the heart of the international community's current efforts at managing and regulating economic globalization and international trade.

Course objectives

This course gives an introduction to the institutional and substantive law of the World Trade Organization. During the course, students will: (1) examine the role of law in international trade; (2) become conversant with the mandate, the institutions, the membership and the decision-making procedures of the WTO, with special attention for the position of developing country members and the role of NGOs in the WTO; (3) become acquainted with the WTO system for settling trade disputes; (4) acquire an understanding of the WTO rules on non- discrimination and market access; (5) become familiar with the WTO rules on the conflict between trade liberalization and other societal values and interests (such as public health, national security, environmental protection, economic development, etc.); (6) be informed on the challenges facing the multilateral trading system.

Master Public Policy and Human Development

GTD4206
Period 4
12 Mar 2018
6 Apr 2018
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.D. Prévost](#)

Teaching methods:
PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
Trade; Policy-making; Economics
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

International Intellectual Property Law and Policy

Full course description

In the modern world of sophisticated high technology and international communication many professionals need to understand the legal issues arising from the use of intellectual property law. This course will provide an introduction to international intellectual property and policy issues and their connection with efforts to free world trade (WTO) and of regional integration, such as the European Union, NAFTA, and ASEAN, to create an internal market with a level playing field for the protection of intellectual property and economic development in innovation and creativity. The course will provide an overview of substantive and procedural matters, as well as international obligations and economic and policy questions involving intellectual property acquisition, enforcement and exploitation. Account will also be given of diverging perspectives on topics ranging from the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore to high technology.

Course objectives

During the course, students will: - Appreciate the basic treaty and economic principles covering intellectual and industrial property (i.e. copyright, trade marks, patents, and unfair competition). - Become conversant with the substantive provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, and the legal and policy implications of an intellectual property agreement within an international trade law system. - Explore current legal and policy issues concerning TRIPS under consideration in the WTO and other international forums, especially from the perspective of regional integration and developing economies. - Identify the current developments and issues that are at the centre of current discussions and negotiations for the further development or modification of the international intellectual property system, such as technology transfer, file-sharing, protection of folklore, and access to essential medicine.
GTD4307
Period 5
16 Apr 2018

Master Public Policy and Human Development

11 May 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [A.W.J. Kamperman Sanders](#)

Teaching methods:
PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Development and Human Rights

Full course description

This course focuses on the inter-relation of development and human rights, with contributions from many different disciplines. We start by looking at human rights in an international context, with emphasis on the right to development, and explore related issues, e.g. poverty and political violence, and resulting out-migration and brain drain. We then look at the relation between development and conflict, and how the duration and intensity of conflicts amongst countries affect development. Finally, the course addresses some of the formal (and informal) options available at an international level to solve conflicts.

Course objectives

This course aims to provide a comprehensive overview of issues relating to the "right to development", from its sources (poverty, conflict) to ways of alleviating it and the assessment of their effects.

Recommended reading

- Reader

FPD4408
Period 5
14 May 2018
8 Jun 2018
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
4.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [A.P.M. Coomans](#)

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s), Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Final paper, Participation, Presentation
Keywords:
Human Rights; Human Development; Conflict Development, Prevention and Resolution;
International Court of Justice; International Criminal Court
Skills

Skills

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Introductory Data Science & Statistcs

Full course description

This course aims to teach in an interactive, hands-on manner basic skills needed in working with and analyzing data. The course starts with steps to "clean" data, and to describe its properties through numerical statistics and proper forms of visualization. The course then introduces basic forms of inferential statistics. Throughout the course, the Stata statistical package will be used and prepares directly for the courses on Regression Analysis and Public Policy Analysis.

Course objectives

The course aims to (1) introduce students to the Stata statistical package and (2) real-world datasets used for policy analysis and making, (3) give students a package of tools and steps to take to detect and remove problems in large datasets, (4) teach students to how to visualize data in a way that communicates a clear message even to statistically illiterate recipients, (5) present students with essential concepts in descriptive statistics and (6) introduce students to basic inferential statistics.

Recommended reading

• Smith, Gary. 2015. Essential Statistics, Regression, and Econometrics, 2nd edition. San Diego, CA: Academic Press • Reader
SKL4102
Period 1
4 Sep 2017
29 Sep 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- M. Konte

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Paper(s), Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Final paper
Keywords:
Data science; Statistics; Data cleaning; Visualization; Descriptive statistics; Probability theory;
Confidence intervals; Hypothesis tests; Stata
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Regression Analysis I

Full course description

This course aims to introduce students to the powerful analytical tool of regression analysis. In this first of two parts, students will be introduced to ordinary least-squares regression with one or more independent variables, including special types of variables such as dummies and interaction terms. Students will explore real-world data to analyse policy-relevant questions and form conclusions on the basis of the evidence they uncover.

Course objectives

This course covers introductory econometric methods including bi- and multinomial regression with dummies and interaction terms, the prerequisite model assumptions, and the use of these methods for policy analysis.

Prerequisites

Completion or exemption from Introductory Data Science & Statistics SKL4102

Recommended reading

• Smith, Gary. 2015. Essential Statistics, Regression, and Econometrics, 2nd edition. San Diego, CA: Academic Press • Stock, James & Mark Watson. 2014. Introduction to Econometrics, updated 3rd edition. Boston, MA: Pearson. • Reader.
SKL4103
Period 1
2 Oct 2017
27 Oct 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- M. Konte

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Paper(s), Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper
Keywords:
Inferential statistics; Regression Analysis; Multinomial OLS regress; Econometric methods; Stata
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Regression Analysis II

Full course description

Expanding on the preceding course Regression Analysis I SKL____, this course develops the tool of regression analysis further, covering three key components often used for policy analysis: • Non-linear transformations for dependent and independent variables • Instrumental variables • Logit and probit-type regressions for binomial dependent variables

Course objectives

This course builds on the techniques of multinomial OLS regression analysis and adds non-linear transformations, instrumental variables and logit/probit regression to the students' toolkit.

Prerequisites

Completion or exemption from Introductory Data Science & Statistics SKL4102, and Regression Analysis I SKL4103

Recommended reading

• Stock, James & Mark Watson. 2014. Introduction to Econometrics, updated 3rd edition. Boston, MA: Pearson. • Reader.
SKL4203
Period 2
30 Oct 2017
24 Nov 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- M. Konte

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), Paper(s), Assignment(s)
Assessment methods:
Final paper
Keywords:
Inferential statistics; Regression Analysis; Multinomial OLS regression; Non-linear terms; Instrumental variables; Logit/probit; Econometric methods; Stata
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Research Design

Full course description

Academic research is a craft that is concerned with the production (construction) of scientific knowledge. Like a contractor building a house, a researcher needs to plan ahead with an

encompassing architecture (design) which specifies an appropriate combination of the right foundations (theory), materials (data) and tools (methods) to construct a scientific argument. And like in a watchmaker's engineering, these individual components of its design need to interlink like the cogs in a clock to provide an accurate account. This course aims to familiarise students with the foundations of evaluating and designing academic research. It starts with an introduction into the philosophy of science in order to critically assess how we come to know (scientifically) about the world. It also enables students to assess existing research and review academic debates in order to identify areas where their own research can make a relevant contribution. The course then familiarises students with the process of designing their own research projects (such as their Master's thesis), discussing the need for a balance between the components of research question, theory, data, and methods. The course will combine both theoretical knowledge and hands-on application, and include online materials, lectures, PBL sessions and interactive sessions. Students will apply their knowledge in a range of assignments, presentations and a final assignment in which they will write a research proposal on their topic of interest.

Course objectives

1) Students will acquire an understanding of the nature of academic research and how to assess research design. Specifically, students will be familiarised with the following topics: - philosophy of science - reviewing the literature in a field: critically assessing research, identifying and tracing debates - research ethics

2) Students will learn how to design their own research and choose among a range of relevant methods. Specifically, they will be familiarised with the following topics: -selecting relevant research topics and turning them into feasible research questions -identifying relevant theory and concepts, including their operationalisation

Prerequisites

There are no specific requirements for this course. However, students are encouraged to think early about a research area of interest, since the final assignment will ask them to write a research proposal on a topic of their choice (possibly leading to their Master's thesis topic).

Recommended reading

Reader

SKL4403
Period 2
30 Oct 2017
22 Dec 2017
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [M.T. Vanore](#)

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Teaching methods:
Lecture(s), PBL, Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Participation, Final paper
Keywords:
• Philosophy of science • Research design • Research question • Critical reading
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Econometrics

Full course description

The challenge of econometrics is to find out what everyday reality, properly recorded and interpreted, can tell us about the relevance of economic and social theories. Governance theories concern, more often than not, the effects of economic and social policies. It is the purpose of econometric methods to measure the impact and assess the effectiveness of policy interventions. The snag of econometric methods is that they depend on statistical induction. Apart from being fraught with technicalities, statistical induction is unavoidably subject to statistical error. Whereas a mathematical conclusion is arguably "exact", a statistical conclusion is not – even though deep mathematical arguments may have been invoked in the process. Thus every decent statistical estimate comes with a "standard error" attached to it, revealing the scale of the sampling error it contains. Furthermore, ordinary sampling error is a trifle as compared to some other kinds of statistical error, called (imaginatively) non-sampling errors. These are much harder to control and require more subtle methods of statistical analysis. Unfortunately, non-sampling errors are conspicuously present in economic and social policy research. Therefore, in this course, expect to study not only regression models and methods based on ordinary least squares; in addition, we will devote attention to the assessment of inferences, and discover the method of instrumental variables, an important stratagem in the battle against non-sampling errors.

Course objectives

Our goal in this course is to understand the uses and pierce the secrets of (mainstream) econometric methods in economic and social policy research. Examples of secrets are implicit assumptions and hidden pitfalls. We aim to combine theoretical insight with empirical practice and group activity. Participants will study the theory, solve some problems, read about applications, and deal with actual data using econometric software (Stata). A willingness to think formally and a readiness to make one's hands dirty are required ingredients for success. Algebra, calculus, and basic notions of probability and statistics are prerequisites. Some prior exposure to econometrics at an introductory level is an advantage. Ideally, participants should already be familiar with mathematical formulations of economic theories and the concept of a statistical model.

Prerequisites

- Algebra
- Basic calculus
- Basic probabilit and statistics

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Recommended reading

Stock, James H. and Mark W. Watson, 2012: Introduction to Econometrics, 3rd edition. (International Edition.) Boston, MA: Pearson Higher Education. ISBN: 9781408264331.

SKL4303
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
6.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

- [D.P.I. de Crombrugghe](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL, Presentation(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Participation, Presentation, Written exam
Keywords:
• Statistical inference • Econometric methods • Regression models • Empirical analysis • Policy evaluation • Actual data • Stata
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Introduction to Data Science

Full course description

This course aims to teach in an interactive, hands-on manner basic skills needed in working with and analyzing data. Using real-world data, this course familiarizes students with problems often encountered in dealing with large, messy data sets. The course starts with steps to "clean" data, and to describe its properties through numerical statistics and proper forms of visualization. The course then introduces basic forms of inferential statistics. Throughout the course, the Stata statistical package will be used and prepares directly for the courses on Public Policy Analysis and Econometrics that follow.

Course objectives

The course aims to (1) introduce students to the Stata statistical package and (2) real-world datasets used for policy analysis and making (such as household surveys), (3) give students a package of tools and steps to take to detect and remove problems in large datasets, (4) teach students to how to visualize data in a way that communicates a clear message even to statistically illiterate recipients, (5) present students with essential concepts in descriptive statistics and (6) introduce students to basic inferential statistics.

Prerequisites

Participation in or exemption from the course "Statistics Levelling."

Master Public Policy and Human Development

Recommended reading

Reader

SKL4402
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
3.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

* [L.F. Krebs](#)

Teaching methods:
Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Assignment, Attendance, Participation
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Statistics Leveling

Full course description

This online leveling course aims to (re-)acquaint students with the fundamental basics needed in later classes such as Introduction to Data Science, Econometrics and Public Policy Analysis. Topics include basic math, algebra, linear equations, plotting/graphing, stochastics and descriptive statistics. To make the course as useful as possible for students with different backgrounds, it is offered as a online course with individualized curriculum.

Course objectives

Due to the diversity in prior education for MPP students, this course aims to ensure that all MPP students have basic knowledge required to succeed in core courses of the fall semester.

SKL4401
[Print course description](#)
ECTS credits:
1.0
Instruction language:
English
Coordinator:

* [L.F. Krebs](#)

Teaching methods:
Training(s)
Assessment methods:
Written exam
Keywords:
• Algebra • Plotting • Probability • Descriptive statistics