Course Title: Advanced Impact Evaluation

Instructor: Caitlin Brown

ECTS: 2

Term: Spring

Module: SFI

Relation to other courses:
Prerequisite: Research Methods I, Impact Evaluation: Theory and Application

Background and Overall Aim of the Course:

How do we know whether a policy is achieving its aim or not? Evaluating the impact of public policies is key in successful policy development and implementation. This course will continue from Impact Evaluation: Theory and Application and introduce advanced methods used to analyze the impact of public policy in an array of settings. It will focus on the role of causality and how the features of a policy, as well as the environment in which it is implemented, hinder (or help) the accuracy of an evaluation. Case studies from a variety of countries and contexts will be used to emphasize the methods presented. This course will focus on practical applicability of evaluation techniques.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- ✓ Understand and implement advanced methods used in impact evaluation using statistical software
- ✓ Think critically about the issues involved with evaluating public policies, including the role of endogeneity.
- ✓ Select an appropriate method for evaluating a public policy, given the context of the policy and the data available

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

This course will be an applied practical class where students will learn the methods in-class as we progress throughout the course. The course will be part-lecture, where the basics are presented, and part "hands-on" work, where students put the methods learnt into practice.

Assessment:

Grades will be assessed based on the following:

Participation/Attendance:	30 %
Take-Home Exam:	70%

Course Content and Readings:

This course will be drawing from an array of sources. The key materials will be posted on Moodle for students to access. Students will also have access to Stata through one of CEU's computer labs.

For students who would like additional readings, I encourage you to read the following:

1. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics* (2009) by Joshua Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke.
   A more advanced version of Mastering 'Metrics, aimed at explaining the technical aspects behind causal analysis
2. *Impact Evaluation in Practice* by Paul Gertler, Sebastian Martinez, Patrick Premand, Laura B. Rawlings, and Christel M. J. Vermeersch. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Publications. www.worldbank.org/ieinpractice.
3. *Handbook on Impact Evaluation: Quantitative Methods and Practices* (2010) by Khander, Shahidur R., Gayatri B. Koolwal and Hussain A. Samad. The World Bank: Washington, D.C.
4. *Evaluating Anti-Poverty Programs* (2008) by Martin Ravallion. Chapter 59, in T. Paul Schultz and John Strauss, ed Handbook of Development Economics, vol.4. Elsevier: Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The course schedule is as follows (please note that this schedule is approximate and is subject to change).

Topic 1: Review of Experimental vs. Non-Experimental Methods of Evaluation

Topic 2: Propensity-Score Matching (PSM)

Topic 3: Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD)

Topic 4: Difference-in-Differences (advanced)

Topic 5: Instrumental Variables (advanced)

Topic 6: Using Evaluation for Policy Analysis