PPOL 5160 Evidence in Public Policy
Spring 2023

SYLLABUS

Time and Venue
Group 1: Monday 9:00AM-11:50AM @ Lee Shau Kee Building (LSK) 1010
Group 2: Friday 1:30PM-4:20PM @ Cheng Yu Tung Building (CYT) G009B

Instructor
Associate Professor HE Jingwei Alex, Division of Public Policy
E-mail: ajwhe@ust.hk
Office hour: Wednesday 2:30PM-4:30PM @Room4616A
Telephone: 3469-2282

Teaching Assistants
Group 1: Miss Mengyuan NIU, PhD Candidate; E-mail: mniu@connect.ust.hk
Group 2: Mr Xuan ZENG, PhD Candidate; E-mail: xzengao@connect.ust.hk

Course Description
This course introduces students the basic concepts and methodologies in social science research and their applications in public policy research. It focuses on the development of students’ professional skills in research design, data collection techniques, data analysis, and presentation of research findings. Main topics for the course include validity of research, measurement, experiments, sampling, survey research, qualitative data collection techniques and impact assessment. Cases and examples are used to facilitate discussions in the class on the actual applications of the concepts and methodologies for policy making.

Course Objectives
This core course seeks to
1) familiarize students with key research methodologies commonly used in public policy research;
2) enable students to formulate a general research strategy for a given policy problem;
3) enable students to design and implement field work for policy research;
4) enable students to conduct evaluation for a particular policy or program.

Textbook

Assessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative policy analysis</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due on April 5 (Group 1)/April 2 (Group 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative policy analysis</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due on April 26 (Group 1)/April 23 (Group 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact assessment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due on May 17 (Group 1)/May 7 (Group 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer evaluation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Due on May 22</td>
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Class #1 Introduction to Policy Research
Group 1: February 6; Group 2: February 3

Readings:

Class #2 Preparing for Conducting Policy Research
Group 1: February 13; Group 2: February 10

Readings:

Class #3 Designing Policy Research (I): Experimental Designs
Group 1: February 20; Group 2: February 17

Readings:

Class #4 Designing Policy Research (II): Quasi-Experimental Designs
Group 1: February 27; Group 2: February 24

Readings:
Class #5 Designing Policy Research (III): Non-Experimental Designs
Group 1: March 6; Group 2: March 3

Readings:

Class #6 Quantitative Methods: Data Collection
Group 1: March 13; Group 2: March 10

Readings:

Class #7 Quantitative Methods: Data Analysis (I)
March 17 1:30PM-4:20PM (two groups combined @LT-B)
To be delivered by Dr Zhuoni Zhang, HKUST (Guangzhou) via Zoom

Readings:

Class #8 Quantitative Methods: Data Analysis (II)
March 24 1:30PM-4:20PM (two groups combined @LT-B)
To be delivered by Dr Zhuoni Zhang, HKUST (Guangzhou) via Zoom

Readings:

Class #9 Qualitative Methods: Data Collection
Group 1: April 3; Group 2: March 31

Readings:

Assignment #1 (quantitative analysis) due.

Class #10 Qualitative Methods: Data Analysis
Group 1: April 17; Group 2: April 14 (April 7 Public holiday)

Readings:

Class #11 Impact Assessment (I)
Group 1: April 24 (May 1 Public holiday); Group 2: April 21

Readings:
Assignment #2 (qualitative analysis) due.

Class #12 Impact Assessment (II)
Group 1: May 8; Group 2: April 28

Readings:

Class #13 Ethics and Communication in Policy Research
Group 1: May 15; Group 2: May 5

Readings:

Assignment #3 (impact assessment) due.