



Course Title:	Quantitative Methods	Course Coordinator:	Dr Randolph Luca Bruno
Course Code:	SEESGS15	Course Prerequisites:	Introductory Level Economics
Credit Value:	15 (6 ECTS)	Runs in (2013/14):	Term 1
		Contact hours:	2 hours per week
Compulsory for:	IMESS (E&B Track), MA CBE, MA CE&P, MRes (1 Year), MRes (Optional Core 2 Year, Social Sciences Track) (pre-requisite for Advanced Quantitative Methods (SEESGS46))		
Open to:	Qualified UCL Masters students subject to availability		

Course Outline

This graduate course assumes no prior knowledge of statistics or knowledge of mathematics beyond GCSE (or equivalent)-level. It provides a basic introduction to statistics essential for multi-disciplinary study. The emphasis is on elements of statistical thinking and insight is drawn from simple data and concepts rather than complex derivations and formulae. The course presents quantitative methods as an essential intellectual method appropriate for study alongside other approaches to social sciences. The course is oriented towards making practical use of simple statistical methods and is focused particularly on interpretation of the results. The second part of the course introduces students to regression analysis and so prepares them for more advanced courses in quantitative methods and econometrics (SEESGS46). By the end of the course all students will be able to conduct and interpret empirical statistical analysis with the use of real world data. The course uses the STATA software package.

At the end of the module you should have fulfilled the following aims and objectives

1. To understand statistical thinking as a fundamental intellectual method;
2. To introduce statistical ideas and statistical reasoning that is relevant to students of social sciences and humanities;
3. To provide a foundation in basic statistical techniques and principles;
4. To prepare students for the spring term course in Advanced Quantitative Methods (SEESGS46);
5. To introduce students to the STATA software package.
6. Be aware of different types of data and understand issues relating to methods and errors of sampling, and other biases in data;
7. Have gained practical skills of presenting and interpreting quantitative data such as descriptive statistics, measures of central tendency, statistical inference, and measures of association;
8. Have a basic understanding of the principles and limitations of linear regression;
9. Be able to access a greater range of literature utilising quantitative approaches;
10. Be prepared to use STATA for basic data analysis, and for creating tables and graphs;

Assessment Methods

Assessment Style: 2hr Unseen Exam+1x2000w Essay
Assessment Weighting: 50% + 50%

Feedback

Coursework: Verbal/written feedback on presentations, assessed and non-assessed coursework.
 Examination: Students will be permitted access to markers' comments on individual scripts in line with the SSEES Policy on Examination Feedback.

Readings

Core Selected Chapters:

- a) Newbold, P., Carlson, W. Thorne, B. (2012) *Statistics for Business and Economics*, 8/E, Pearson (for lectures)
- b) Levin, J. and Fox, J. A. (2010). *Elementary Statistics for Social Research: The essential*.3rd Edition, Boston, MA. Pearson (for lectures)
- c) Kohler, U. and Kreuter, F., (2012), *Data Analysis Using STATA*, 2nd Edition, STATA press (for tutorials)

Additional (optional)

Acock, Alan (2012) *A gentle introduction to STATA*, Revised Third edition, STATA press
 Baum, Christopher F. (2006) *An Introduction to Modern Econometrics Using STATA*, STATA Press.
 Huck, Schuyler W. (2008). *Statistical Misconceptions*. New York: Routledge.
 Wright, D. B. and London, K. (2009). *First (and Second) Steps in Statistics*. London, Sage