

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- www.unine.ch/seco

Making Sense of Data: An Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning in Social Sciences (5TS2011)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Doctorat en travail social	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Contenu

Being able to clearly and critically think about quantitative information is key in a data-driven age. Quantitative reasoning and the ability to critically assess quantitative claims are essential skills not only in traditional data-driven areas. This course is explicitly designed as an introductory course for students not familiar with quantitative methods and reasoning. It does not require any prior knowledge in this area, and is therefore not suited for students with more extensive prior experience. The course is designed to introduce students to and help them become familiar with tools of quantitative data analysis for the social sciences, providing a starting point from which they can decide to pursue more advanced courses. It follows an intuitive understanding of quantitative methods and becomes formal or technical only where absolutely necessary. The introductory course has three primary aims: First, the course will lower barriers to reading and understanding quantitative studies and empower students to consider conducting quantitative analyses themselves. Second, students will be introduced to statistical models that researchers and policymakers use to answer social, political, and economic questions. Third, the course will equip students with an initial foundation to use one or more of the discussed techniques in their thesis or dissertation.

Forme de l'évaluation

50% will be based on homework during the semester, 50% will be based on a final take-home assessment (issued on 13 December 2024, due 17 December (noon) 2024) (Examen Intermédiaire).

Documentation

Moodle

Pré-requis

This course does not require any prior knowledge in this area. Registered PhD students (at ITTS and others); registered Master students, notified future PhD student of the ITTS. Registration at messagerie.itts@unine.ch until September 15 2024.

Forme de l'enseignement

In person lectures and homeworks.

Teaching periods

Fridays 18.10.24, 01.11.24 & 15.11.24 (9h15-12h45); Fridays 29.11.24 & 13.12.24 (full day – 9h15-17h15)

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Develop understanding of quantitative tools employed in political, social, and economic research
- Carry out basic data analysis using the statistical software STATA
- Interpret results

Compétences transférables

- Criticise research methodology
- Evaluate research methodology
- Develop proper technical language when reading, analyzing, and presenting quantitative research
- Practice basic coding skills
- Develop basic skills to quantitatively analyze social phenomena