McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Salem Center for Policy

PRL Introduction

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Evaluating policies (economic, governmental, otherwise) using the best available evidence + techniques.

How are we doing this?

The evidence is data.

- – data cleaning and organization

- – data summarization

The techniques are statistical learning and coding.

- – coding in R (a statistical computing language)

- – statistical modeling

- – causal inference

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$$\underbrace{\text{evidence} + \text{techniques}}_{\text{thoughtful interpretation}} = \text{solid} \text{ policy analysis!}$$
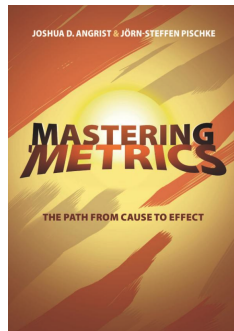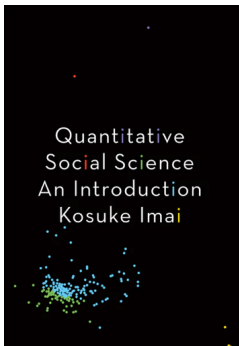
Class structure

Before class
– reading and review questions

During class
– lecture and discussion

After class
– exercises

- we will use the left book (QSS) for readings, review questions, and exercises

- we will use the right book (MM) for supplementary reading

- additional readings will be provided as we work our way through the semester

Expectations

- collaborate with your fellow students

- engage with the readings and in class discussions

- you are research assistants in addition to students, and the workload will be more than a traditional class

- I will be asking a lot of you because I know you're excellent students :)

- keep up with the fast pace and have fun!