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I SUMMER	The 4 <sup>th</sup> International IPSA – HSE Summer School for Methods of Political &
	Social Research
HSE SPB_/L	Course Syllabus
Course title:	Experimental Methods in the Social Sciences
Instructor:	Dr. Israel Marques II
ECTS / academic hours	2 ECTS / 38 contact hours, 38 self – study hours
Brief course description (up to 100	This course introduces students to experiments as a tool for social science
words):	research and provides the tools needed to integrate them into their
	research agendas. Contemporary social science faces a number of
	fundamental challenges – omitted variables, selection effects, and reverse
	causality – that complicate our ability to study the world. This course will
	cover the basic logic of experimental methods, illustrating how and when
	they best address these problems. The course will cover a variety of
	experimental methodologies, as well as best practices for designing,
	analyzing, and presenting them. We will also discuss practical issues such
Indicative concepts (up to 10):	as ethical review, implementation, and integration with other methods.  Quantitative Research, Causal Inference, Survey Experiments, Laboratory
marcative concepts (up to 10):	Experiments, Field Experiment, Natural Experiments, Research Design
	Day 1 Introduction to the Problems of Causal Inference and the logic of
Worshops overview:	experiments. Overview of experimental (and quasi-experimental)
	methodologies. We will also discuss how to conceptualize and
	design experiments around concrete research questions.
	Day 2 Survey Experiments. We will cover the use of survey experiments
	as a measurement tool to study sensitive topics, as well as
	various classes of survey experiments aimed at substantive
	questions. We will discuss the major types of survey experiments
	(list, vignette, conjoint, etc.) and how these can be adapted to
	students' research. We will also go over practicalities of design,
	implementation, and best practices for analysis.
	Day 3 Laboratory Experiments. We will cover the uses of laboratory
	experiments as a causal inference tool, and discuss the most
	commonly used basic set-ups used in the social sciences. We will
	then discuss how these basic classes of experiments can be
	extended to explore new areas of substantive interest. Finally, we will go over practical issues related to design,
	implementation, and best practices for analysis.
	Day 4 Field and Lab in the Field experiments. We will begin by defining
	field and lab in the field experiments, as well as differentiating
	them from other classes of experimental research. We will then
	discuss the unique challenges of these methods, with respect to
	measurement, sampling, and implementation. Finally, we will
	discuss best practices for conducting, presenting, and analyzing
	these experiments
	Day 5 The practicalities of experimental research. On the final day, we
	will discuss practical concerns common to most forms of
	experiments. These will include sampling and recruitment,
	ethical review, pre-registration and pre-analysis plans,
	publication strategies, and integration of experiments into a
	larger research agenda.
Assessment techiques to receive	Students will be expected to write a Research Proposal that incorporates
graded certificate:	an experimental component into a research project of their own devising.
Course Requirements /	The proposal should include an informal pre-analysis plan.  Basic Introduction to Statistics (OLS and Maximum-Liklihood)
Prerequities	basic introduction to statistics (OES and Maximum-Likimood)

Essential readings:	Mutz, D. (2011). Population-Based Survey Experiments. Princeton:
	Princeton University Press.
	<ul> <li>Green, D. and Gerber, A. (2012). Field Experiments: Design,</li> </ul>
	Analysis, and Interpretation. New York: Norton.
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