**IDEV2200: Policy, Economy and Society**

Guelph Institute of Development Studies

University of Guelph

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Bharat Punjabi

MEETING TIMES: TBD

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This course focuses on the analysis of major development and social justice policy problems facing societies across the globe by applying fundamental economic principles and approaches to the study of the economy and its interconnectedness to society. In so doing, it introduces economics for students that have never studied economics before and/or for whom the ways in which economists conceptualize and analyze the world may be challenging. The course is applied in nature, such that it poses the question, how can economics help us to understand and possibly solve societal problems? There will be some modules where we will be hearing from professionals in policy making on how development and taxation problems are dealt with. We will also be comparing and contrasting methods followed by economists with policy tools used in other social sciences.

Throughout the course, there is some focus on interpreting, handling, and analyzing data so that we can understand societal issues and problems more clearly. Data is critical for the analysis of policy problems, and skills in extracting, displaying, and summarizing these data are shared in this course.