



**COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND  
APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES**

GUELPH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**COURSE: IDEV\*2200 Policy, Economy and Society**

Instructor: Spencer Henson  
Office location: Office hours will be held remotely in Fall 2020  
Office Hours: 9-11am Monday  
Email: shenson@uoguelph.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on the analysis of the major development and social justice policy problems facing societies across the globe by applying fundamental economic principle and approaches to the study of the economy and its interconnectedness to society. In so doing, it provides an introduction to economics for students that have never studied economics before and/or for whom the ways in which economists conceptualise and analyse the world may be challenging. The course is highly applied in nature, such that it poses the question, how can economics help us to understand and possibly solve societal problems?

Throughout the course, there is a major focus on handling and analysing data so that we can understand societal issues and problems more clearly. Data is critical for the analysis of policy problems, and basic skills in extracting, displaying and summarising these data are critical. We will be using Excel to do this; for those of you who have little or no experience with using Excel, detailed guidance is provided.

**FALL 2020 COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT**

In Fall 2020, the course will be taught remotely. Each week there will be a 1 hour 20-minute remote lecture. Each lecture will be broken-up with activities, reflections, etc. There will also be a weekly 50-minute discussion session and question and answer session.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Understand economic principles and approaches to the study of the economy and society, and their application to the analysis of development and social justice problems.

2. Use economic principles and approaches to the study of the economy and society to define plausible policy options to address development and social justice policy problems.
3. Handle, process and display data using Excel in order to analyse policy problems and to communicate the results in an effective manner.
4. Reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of economic principles and approaches to the study of the economy and society for the analysis of development and social justice policy problems.

## **EVALUATION**

The evaluation for the course will consist of the following elements:

1. Five written and data analysis assignments that will be distributed throughout the semester.
2. Five online quizzes that will be distributed throughout the semester.
3. Video reflection at the end of the course that provides an opportunity to reflect on what has been learned throughout the course.

This blend of assignments aims to provide students with an ongoing guide on their progress, and to assess both understanding and application of the subject matter being taught. A parallel aim of the assessments is to engender skills and experience in the use of Excel in the analysis of economic problems related to social justice and development.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

This course is based on a revolutionary approach to the study of introductory economics developed by the Core Economics initiative. We will be using their more applied introductory book as the required text for the course:

The Core Team, (2019). *Economy, Society and Public Policy*. Core Economics.

The text is available at: <http://www.core-econ.org/espp>