

*Economics of Pandemics

*Listed in UG Calendar as ECON 3201: Economic Thought and Policy in Canada



Instructor: Professor Hashmat Khan

The global impact of COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in living memory with millions of deaths and major economic disruptions in Canada and abroad. In this course you will learn about the relationship between pandemics and economic activity from different perspectives, applying economic concepts such as trade-offs, externalities, incentives, demand and supply, and welfare. The lectures will be organized around a variety of topics including the responses of households and firms to lockdowns and restrictions, impact on labour markets; mental health and financial vulnerabilities, the role and scope of fiscal and monetary policies; vaccine development, distribution, and the design of patents; advantages and risks of globalization in the face of coronaviruses; the role of international institutions, incentives for international pandemic monitoring and information sharing; and economic pathways towards building public health and economic resilience against future pandemics. The course will also present emerging insights from ongoing economic research including those based on new frameworks that combine epidemiological and economic models.

Prerequisite: First year standing or higher; prior coursework in economics is not required.

Course Delivery: In-person on campus in a HyFlex classroom, with synchronous online option.