

Course Syllabus

ECONOMICS CP

A.B. Miller High School

August 9, 2010 – December 17, 2010

Instructor: Mr. John McDonnell
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Office Hours: 3:00pm – 3:30pm Monday – Friday and by appointment

DESCRIPTION

Economics is a one-semester course that focuses on how economic decisions are made by individuals, businesses, and governments. Demand and supply analysis is developed to demonstrate how market prices are determined, how those prices determine an economy's allocation of goods and services, how factors of production are allocated in the production process, and how goods and services are distributed throughout the economy. We evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of economic decision makers by using the concepts of efficiency and equity. We also analyze and evaluate the effects of government intervention. Emphasis is placed on reasoned logical argument so that we can use economics as a method and model for decision-making.

REQUIREMENTS

You will take lecture notes using the Cornell note format and maintain all class materials in a notebook. You will need to bring your textbook and notebook to every class meeting in order to participate in and receive credit for class activities. Your notebook will be evaluated at the end of each unit.

TEXT

O'Sullivan, Arthur and Steven M. Sheffrin *Economics: Principles in Action*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2006.

WEB SITE

Information about this class and current grades are available at:
JMcDonnell.net

RESOURCES

In addition to the textbook, various written resources will be provided in class. A wide variety of supplemental materials and activities related to each topic we study as well as an online version of the textbook can be found at:

www.phschool.com

Economics CP Course Syllabus (cont.)

Students are encouraged to make use of the Internet and other technology resources available in the A.B. Miller library, computer labs, and room F-6 during regular office hours and by appointment.

EVALUATION

Your grade in this class will be based primarily upon your performance on written examinations. Examinations covering material presented in class and in assigned reading will be administered at the end of each unit during regular class periods. Grades on these examinations as well as frequent multiple-choice quizzes will be based on a standard grading scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89%=B, etc.

In addition to written examinations, you will be evaluated on your participation in classroom activities, completion of in-class and homework assignments as well as completion of a semester project. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Examinations and Quizzes	55%
Homework, Participation and Attendance	30%
Term Project	15%

ABSENCE

In the event of an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to determine what assignments need to be completed. The instructor will not devote class time to explaining assignments missed due to an absence; students are welcome to come in during office hours for this information.

Students will be afforded one day to complete make up work for each day of an excused absence. Assignments submitted after this period of time will be considered late.

Assignments turned in late will not receive full credit. Late work will not be accepted for unexcused absences. Examinations missed during an excused absence must be completed on the first day you return to class.

Pursuant to District policy, students with excessive absences will be dropped from the course.

TERM PROJECT

Specific details will be provided at a later date.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

First semester: December 14 – 16, 2010

STUDY ASSISTANCE

All students are encouraged to obtain additional assistance with class assignments and/or test preparation during regular office hours. The instructor will also be available at other times by appointment.

A FEW MORE ABSURD, UNREASONABLE REQUIREMENTS

These things should go without saying I suppose, but since some people prefer explicit instructions please take a moment to review the following:

1. **Arrive to class on time.** It's honestly insulting when students arrive late. They might as well hand me a note reading "I'd rather be in the hallway than in your class, please go die."
2. **Write in black ink.** Other colors are okay, too... for your love letters.
3. **Use complete sentences.** Assignments that include answers like "they landed" are not very meaningful. Answers like "The Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the moon on July 20, 1969" make much more sense.
4. **Do your own work.** Submitting the work of another as your own is known as plagiarism. This puts you on the fast track to expulsion from any respectable learning institution.
5. **Eat during lunch.** I don't understand why anybody would ever think it is acceptable to eat during class. Would you eat in church?
6. **Deal with your own bodily functions.** You have a fundamental right as a human being to use a toilet when necessary. Geneva Convention Accords (Chapter 3, Article 29) dictate that prisoners of war are afforded this right and, of course, so are you. Do not ask me if you can use the restroom as denying access would be a clear violation of your human rights – simply sign out for the pass when it is available. Please refrain from taking the pass during the first and last ten minutes of class to comply with school policy.
7. **Pay attention.** Everything in your life will be better if you do. Trust me.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

I will be very happy to write a letter of recommendation to a prospective school or employer if you are earning an above-average grade in my class. If you are not, you should work on improving your grade before asking me to sing your praises. If you do not intend to actually send the letter to someone and only want the letter to stick in a portfolio for another class, don't bother asking – this is a waste of time.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course follows the curriculum guidelines contained in the *California History and Social Science Framework* for twelfth-grade Economics. The following is a general schedule of topics we will discuss:

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

Chapter 1: What Is Economics?

Chapter 2: Economic Systems

Chapter 3: American Free Enterprise

UNIT 2: INTRODUCING MICROECONOMICS: HOW MARKETS WORK

Chapter 4: Demand

Chapter 5: Supply

Chapter 6: Prices

Chapter 7: Market Structures

UNIT 3: BUSINESS AND LABOR

Chapter 8: Business Organizations

Chapter 9: Labor

UNIT 4: MONEY, BANKING, AND FINANCE

Chapter 10: Money and Banking

Chapter 11: Financial Markets

UNIT 5: INTRODUCING MACROECONOMICS: MEASURING ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Chapter 12: Gross Domestic Product and Growth

Chapter 13: Economic Challenges

UNIT 6: GOVERNMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Chapter 14: Taxes and Government Spending

Chapter 15: Fiscal Policy

Chapter 16: The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy

UNIT 7: THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Chapter 17: International Trade

Chapter 18: Economic Development and Transition