

Welcome & Syllabus

1.) Syllabus

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

In this course, students will explore the fundamental concepts of economics, learning how people make choices and manage resources to satisfy their needs and wants. Through interactive lessons, discussions, and real-world examples, students will develop a strong foundation in economic principles that will empower them to understand the world of money, trade, and decision-making.

Course Duration: One Semester

Prerequisites: None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Materials and Requirements

- All courses require you to have access to a working computer and to the Internet.
- All coursework will be completed and graded through a digital learning management system called Spark.
- Students are required to do all testing on a computer. Any sign of cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic 0 for that assignment.
- All assignments will be graded through Spark. Any attachments must be made in a Word document file and turned in through Spark or the instructor.
- Parents/Guardians can observe and view their student's progress through Spark. Please request a "Guardian" account for access.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Grading Percentages

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| A 94-100% | C 73-76% |
| A- 90-93% | C- 70-72% |
| B+ 87-89% | D+ 67-69% |
| B 83-87% | D 63-66% |
| B- 80-82% | D- 59-63% |
| C+ 77-79% | F 58% or below |

Grade Weight Groups:

- Assignments: 25%
- Quizzes: 40%

- Creative Project Term 1 and Final Project Term 2: 20%
- Exam #1 and #2: 15%

PACING GUIDE

Students can complete the course at a pace that best suits them. The students will be responsible for completing and turning in all assignments according to their individual needs.

However, make sure to look at your school's deadlines, to ensure that you are completing courses on track.

Even though you can go at your pace, oftentimes, there is a minimum pace placed in classes. We do this because we want you to graduate on time.

The following is a sample pacing guide.

Weeks 1-2: Introduction to Economics & Economic Systems

Topics Covered:

- What is economics?
- Scarcity, needs vs. wants
- Opportunity cost & trade-offs
- Factors of production
- Types of economic systems (traditional, command, market, mixed)
- Incentives and decision-making

Weeks 3-4: Supply, Demand, and Market Equilibrium

Topics Covered:

- Law of Supply and Law of Demand
- Market equilibrium
- Surplus and shortage
- Changes in supply/demand (shifts)
- Elasticity

Weeks 5-6: Business Structures & Market Structures

Topics Covered:

- Sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, franchises
- Advantages/disadvantages of each
- Perfect competition, monopolistic competition, oligopolies, monopolies
- Government regulation of markets

Weeks 7-8: Role of Government in the Economy

Topics Covered:

- Why governments intervene
- Public goods and services
- Externalities (positive and negative)
- Regulation and deregulation
- Taxation: types, purposes, and effects
- Fiscal policy basics

Weeks 9-10: Creative Project and Exam #1

Weeks 11-12: Money, Banking, and Monetary Policy

Topics Covered:

- What is money? Functions and characteristics
- History of banking in the U.S.
- The Federal Reserve System
- Interest rates and inflation
- Monetary policy tools (open market operations, discount rate, reserve requirements)

Weeks 13-14: Personal Finance Fundamentals

Topics Covered:

- Budgeting and saving
- Types of income
- Banking and credit
- Investing basics (stocks, bonds, mutual funds)
- Credit scores and interest
- Taxes and deductions

Weeks 15-16: Global Economics & Economic Indicators

Topics Covered:

- Comparative advantage
- Global trade, tariffs, and quotas
- Exchange rates
- Trade organizations (WTO, NAFTA/USMCA)
- GDP, unemployment rate, CPI
- Economic cycles: recession, recovery, expansion

Weeks 17-18: Final Project & Review