

Welcome to AP Macroeconomics

Course content

“Capitalism is not a success. It is not intelligent, it is not beautiful, it is not just, it is not virtuous, and it doesn’t deliver the goods. In short, we dislike it and we are beginning to despise it. But when we wonder what to put in its place, we are extremely perplexed”

–Lord John Maynard Keynes

Economics is the discipline of the social sciences that most directly impacts our daily lives. As Keynes explained economics is an inescapable force organizing our lives and societies. Unfortunately, it is common to perceive economics as a barrier to realizing individual or societal goals. This course is designed to empower students to understand and participate in economic dialogue not dismiss it. This is critical in our increasingly economics driven globalized world. Reflecting on the role of economics in our lives is an expectation of the California senior economics framework: “In a one- semester economics course in economics, students should deepen their understanding of the economic problems and institutions of the nation and world in which they live. They should learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners, and members of civic groups”.

Consistent with all AP coursework this class will be taught at the level of an introductory college course. The content matter of this course is intended to prepare students to excel on the AP Macroeconomics exam to be taken during May 2011. Perhaps more importantly, this class is designed to prepare students for the rigor of coursework they will encounter during their years as a college student. Students will be explicitly taught to read, write, note take, and think critically at an undergraduate level. In addition, students will practice and develop the skills associated with entrepreneurship.

Units of Study and Essential Questions

Unit 1 Introduction to Economics: What are the basic economic principles? For example, how do markets, incentives, scarcity, and opportunity costs determine what gets produced and consumed within a society? How have these concepts developed chronologically throughout history?

Unit 2 Microeconomics Supply and Demand: What are supply and demand? How do supply and demand act as the invisible hand in a capitalist economy?

Unit 3 Macroeconomics 1st unit GDP and Price Level: How is GDP measured? What determines the price level?

Unit 4 Macroeconomics 2nd unit Government -- Monetary and Fiscal Policy : How does the banking system increase the money supply and act as the engine of economic growth? How can the Government use fiscal and monetary policy to limit the negative impact of the business cycle?

Unit 5 Macroeconomics 3rd Unit International and Development Economics: What does the neoliberal model urge developing countries to implement as economic policy to achieve development? How accurate is this model? How can countries develop sustainably?

Required texts

Principles of Macroeconomics by Karl E. Case and Ray C. Fair

Current News Articles

Economics Reader Provided Throughout Semester

Grading Procedure

Each students individual term grades will be based on the following:

Tests: 30%

Major Assignments: 30%

Homework Includes Reading Quizzes: 20%

Participation and in class work: 20%

Assessed in part using random number system see explanation below

All quarter and semester grades will be based on the standard grading system:

90-100%: A

80-89%: B

70-79%: C

60-69%: D

< 60%: F

Absences: The school policy on absences states that every five unexcused absences lower your grade by one letter. Every three tardies counts as an unexcused absence. It is the responsibility of the student to clear his/her absences in a timely fashion (within one week). If you are absent from school, you are still responsible for having the assigned homework ready on the due date. Coming to class late is disrespectful to both myself and our classroom community. Please be mindful of your actions. I will hold you accountable for them.

All assignment due dates will be posted on our Powerschool assignment calendar which can be accessed through the student or parent portal as well as our course website.

Assignment Types Details

Tests are designed to check your understanding of course content. Your performance on tests will most likely mirror your ultimate success on the AP exam. You will have at least one test every two weeks in this class. To save instructional time the majority of tests will be completed through our online course at www.bhmoodle.com.

Major assignments are designed to give you an opportunity to apply course concepts to your own areas of interest and to engage in economic analysis. I hope you will find these assignments challenging yet interesting and engaging. There will be at least four major assignments throughout the semester.

Your homework will primarily consist of reading the textbook and articles in conjunction with the material we are covering in class. It is critical that you complete this reading to be successful in this class. To incentivize this necessary reading there will be frequent in class random reading quizzes designed to show that you have completed and understand the reading material. In addition, homework will consist of an ongoing assignment where you will connect economic concepts to current events. You can expect to complete one of these current event posts on our online course for each of the five units of the course.

We have limited class time over the course of the semester and it is critical that we maximize this time. To assess your in class performance and to incentive engagement I will be partially relying on a random number calling system. Be ready at any and all times for a question to come your way or to display your work using our document camera. Another component of your in class performance will be based on your participation in several simulations and socratic seminar style debates.

Late Work Policy

In short, homework assignments may not be turned in late. Homework is designed to prepare students to actively participate and understand each day's lesson. Therefore, all written assignments are due in class or to be posted on our website according to the due dates on our Powerschool assignment calendar. Major assignments will be deducted one letter grade each day they are late.

If an absence has been excused, a student has the same number of days as the length of the absence to make up missing assignments. It is the student's responsibility to hand in work promptly when returning from an absence - I will not remind you. If an absence has not been excused by the attendance office, work will NOT be accepted.

Online Learning

In class learning will be complemented by an online course facilitated by the course management system Moodle. The site will provide students with materials organized by unit and interactive learning activities to connect work done outside of class to in class learning. Students will participate in discussion boards as a way of engaging academically with peers and developing persuasive writing skills. Participation in this online course will allow students the opportunity to participate in and familiarize themselves with many of the tools of the emerging knowledge economy.

Classroom Expectations and Rules

I am committed to providing a quality education in a supportive environment for all my students. Students who are disruptive, chronically unprepared, rude to me or other students or disrespectful of the academic atmosphere of our classroom make it difficult to achieve a positive learning environment for all students. Therefore, these types of behaviors will not be tolerated. I'm happy to help you with any problems you're having in the class, and I expect you to do your part and follow these expectations every day.

Classroom expectations and rules:

1. Be in your desk and ready to work when the bell rings. Work on assigned tasks until the bell rings.
2. Be a scholar and a model of academic integrity. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a 0 for that assignment and risk having the colleges they are applying to contacted at the discretion of the AC VP.
3. Turn OFF and PUT AWAY cell phones and other electronic devices BEFORE class begins unless asked to use your cellphone in class.
4. Participate actively in class. Ask constructive questions, help others, don't waste time, and try your best!
5. Act respectfully toward every member of the class (both students and teachers). Never put anyone, or their ideas, down. This also holds true on our course website.
6. No food or drinks. The one exception being water brought in a container with a top.

The consequences for not meeting the expectations include:

- In class verbal warning and/or after class discussion with teacher
- Phone call home
- Referral to OCI (note: extreme disruptive behavior or disrespect on any given day may result in jumping to this step immediately)

- Meeting with parents and Academic Choice administrators

One Last Thing for Parents:

Thank you for reading through this syllabus. If you ever have any questions or comments about the course or your student's progress throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Please complete the following and return this page with your student.
Returning this page signed will be one of the first small graded assignments for the semester.**

Academic Choice AP Macroeconomics
Fall 2010-2011

I have read the attached syllabus and understand the course requirements as stated.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Name(s): _____

Phone #(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Do You Have Internet Access at Home? _____

Comments/Questions:

AP Macroeconomics
Mr. Sanoff

Email: bsanoff@berkeley.k12.ca.us