

Economics - Syllabus

Guidelines for Mr. Wood's 2012/13 Economics Course

While students will learn the basic terminology for the study of Economics, they will do so within a real world context. Since we live in a global economic environment and because the world is so interdependent economically, politically, and culturally we will focus our study on those connections. We will also look at the role that history and government play in this study of economics. Finally, personal economics, particularly your future and how to successfully shape it, will be of concentration. Our ultimate goal is to enlighten you as a young person to a growing and increasingly competitive global economic marketplace, and to highlight your opportunities and responsibilities within this highly competitive world. This can be a very valuable and enlightening class for you.

HOMEWORK - 25%

Homework will consist primarily of readings of usually three to eight pages, and accompanying focus questions (no more than two page assignments) that guide those readings. These assignments will normally count 20 points and will serve to introduce you to the main economic ideas in the chapter. They will be due prior to class discussion on the economic issues within the chapter and will provide you a basis for discussion. Focussed discussion is a key to our study of economics; relevant economic terms from the chapter will also help to guide your understanding of this discussion.

VOCABULARY - PODCAST POSTS on the Buddha Blog

I am trying something new this year in an effort to increase your vocabulary for A.C.T. Testing. I will regularly post terms that you need to know for each course. Those terms will be explained in depth, with examples in audio podcast form posted on my blog. You'll have continual access to the posts. We will test on the terms. In Economics these terms will be an essential part of Quizzes (below). So, check that blog and know those terms.

QUIZZES - 25%

At the beginning of each unit of study you will be provided a list of Economic Terms. This list is the guide for the Common Assessments and it also serves as the focus for our class study. This list of terms will be noted on the front white board throughout the chapter study. These terms will serve as a focus for quizzes. Two question, twenty point quizzes of the **CLOSED NOTES** variety will be assigned regularly, so you should be reviewing your discussion notes on your own. We will not have any of these quizzes until we have thoroughly discussed the topics. You will **NOT** know when these quizzes will be announced.

PROJECTS- 25% (REAL WORLD ECONOMICS & PERSONAL ECONOMICS)

Real World Economics will serve as a primary focus in this course. See RWE syllabus for specific guidelines. RWE will be a weekly or bi-monthly assignment consisting of two options. For Option T (Teacher) I will provide students a Newspaper article (or series of articles) that deals with some issue of world economics. The reading will be accompanied by a 12 question writing assignment. An internet search will serve as a portion of that assignment. For Option S (Student) I will provide students a focus of study (ie...OIL,, China, Home Mortgage crisis). Students will find an article on their own, read and research that article, and fulfill the guidelines required. For this option students will get one day in the computer lab. Options T and S are due on Friday. Fridays will consist of student oral presentations on their RWE topic of

the week. Students need to take notes on these presentations. Students will be given a final Real World Economics tests covering the oral presentations which will count under the Common Assessment portion of their final grade. This test will be **OPEN NOTES**. Students may work in teams of two on Real World Economics. Once teams are chosen they may not be altered until end of the Marking Period. At that time you may drop your partner, but not choose another, so make your team choices wisely.

Personal Economics will serve as a primary focus of this course. It is imperative that you are aware of your economic choices following high school. In the highly competitive era in which we live, you must have a post high school plan. That plan must involve some kind of education. Whether you decide to head into the military or towards a vocation, or you seek the more traditional college route, without some kind of awareness of what awaits, and an ensuing course of action, you'll find high school graduation a big fat dead end. That high school diploma isn't worth much these days. You need to know the opportunities and the cost of further education, as well as the liabilities that await without it. So, we will work on this. One significant focus will be our research into college (traditional and vocational) and paying for it. Another direction will assist you in creating an online economic and work experience presence. While we all dabble in Facebook for social reasons - Facebook doesn't work in the business world. You need online options in the work world to be competitive. We will go there.

COMMON ASSESSMENTS - 25%

Four common assessment exams will concentrate on the basic terminology and fundamental concepts of Economics. These common assessments will not be Open Notes. You will also have a final exam on Real World Economics that will also count as a Common Assessment and will be open notes. See course breakdown below for CA topics.

ELECTION VOLUNTEERING EXTRA CREDIT - you will have the opportunity to get fully involved in the 2012 election. Check Mr.Wood's Classroom philosophy statement for details.

Proficiency Policy for the study of Economics

- 1 - According to OHS student handbook, student must pass three out of the four marking periods / final.
- 2 - All students must take the final exam.
- 2 - A 60% average on Common Assessments is a requirement for passing the course.
- 3 - Student must satisfy the high school attendance policy (Student Handbook page 17).

Primary Materials Provided: Textbook

O'Sullivan, Arthur and Sheffrin, Steven M., Economics Principles in Action, (Illinois: Prentice Hall, 2001. ISBN 0-13-437329-4

Common Assessment / Text Chapters / Topics

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| #1 - Intro to Economics | Chapters 1 & 2 |
| #2 - American Free Enterprise & Government Involvement | Chapters 3 & 14 |
| #3 - How the Markets Work | Chapters 4, 5, & 6 |
| #4 - Personal Economics | Outside Resources |
| #5 - International Economics | Real World Economics & Chapter 17 |