

AP Economics
2006-2007
Menlo School

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Description

The course is organized in two halves: micro-economics in the first semester and macro-economics in the second. Micro-economics refers to the small picture: the study of how individual consumers and firms make decisions. Also included in the fall semester will be a survey of the history of economic thought. Macro-economics looks at the big picture: the operation of the national or international economy taken as a whole. A detailed list of topics to be covered is available on the AP syllabus handout.

The whole point of an AP class is to give you the opportunity to do college-level work. I hope it proves an exciting and enriching intellectual experience for you. In return you need to commit to a college-level workload and bring a college-level attitude to class. The year-long course will be Advanced Placement for all students. By enrolling in it you are agreeing to take both the micro and macro AP exams in May. If you are not interested in taking an AP class in the second semester of your senior year, please drop now. You will *not* have the opportunity to drop this class at the end of the first semester.

There will be a final exam in the second semester in early May as a review for the macro AP. There is no Pass/Fail option in this course.

Reading

N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Economics*
Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, *Freakonomics*
APIP Macroeconomics and Microeconomics workbooks 3rd edition
Assorted documents and handouts to be distributed in class

You are required to bring the appropriate textbook or workbook to every class meeting. You should also come equipped to take notes and file handouts. I suggest a three-ring binder for this purpose.

Assignments

Your grade will be calculated as an average of exams, paper, and projects. Final exams will count for 15% of your semester grade or 20% if it raises your grade. I do not round up fractional grades.

Note that there will be comparatively few opportunities to earn grades in this class. Each test, paper, or project will count for a larger percentage of your semester grade than you may be used to. Take this into account when you study. I expect you to complete all homework assignments but I will not collect and grade them.

Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Make-ups and extensions are negotiable as long as you take the responsibility to come see me before the day that work is due. The further in advance you talk to me the more reasonable I will be. Late work---including late make-ups---will otherwise be penalized one full grade per day, or one-third of a grade if completed late on the due date.

Tests are to be taken during your class period. You will not be allowed to take a test at another time unless you can demonstrate a significant conflict, e.g., school activity or medical appointment. You may only miss a test if I have excused your absence in advance; in case of unexcused absence your test grade will be penalized one letter grade per day. *Be ready to make up any missed work on your first day back at school.*

Attendance

I expect you to attend all classes and to arrive prepared to participate in discussions. This means doing the assigned reading for the day and remembering to bring the book with you. If you know that you will be unable to attend class, be sure to make arrangements with me in advance about making it up. Yes, unexcused absences (and unprepared attendance) will affect your grade.

...and remember:

- Like most things in life, what you get out of the class will depend on what you put into it. Try to take part in an active way, which means not only doing your homework but also keeping an open mind about other people's ideas. It will make class discussion a lot more interesting.
- Deadlines matter. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. It is always your responsibility to come to me to arrange make-up times or alternate due dates for missed deadlines. Otherwise, "Ain't no love on the day of."
- I will let you know in advance when we are going to meet during the gray period.
- Do not lie, cheat, or steal someone else's work and present it as your own. Such behavior will get you a zero on the assignment and formal disciplinary action by the school.
- Keep in touch. Check your *Menlo* e-mail account regularly; you are responsible for reading whatever I send you. Talk to me, call me, or send me e-mail if there is anything you want to go over. I'm usually available during most of my prep periods (C, E, and F) and during breaks, but it's a good idea to book ahead.