

**Economics**  
Community Partnerships Academy

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*It's not your salary that makes you rich,  
it's your spending habits.*

~ Charles A. Jaffe

*I do not like money,  
...money is the reason we fight.*

~ Karl Marx

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Everything in our society eventually comes back to economics. *Why did the factory worker lose his job? Why does the investment banker makes millions while a social worker barely gets by? How come housing is so expensive in the Bay Area, while cheap in Michigan?* Without understanding basic economic principles, people often mismanage their own money, end up in debt and fail to understand the powerful role of money in all of our lives.

This course will cover the basic tenets of economics. Whenever possible, an attempt will be made to relate these tenets to your life. After all, when you connect your experiences to learning, education becomes a powerful tool. Our semester will be divided into roughly three units:

#### **UNIT I – VALUES, POWER, AND MONEY**

*How do societies allocate scarce resources?*

- Our values, decision making, and the impact of consumerism
- Cost of living
- “The American Dream”
- Capitalism vs. Communism

#### **UNIT II – “STREET LEVEL” FINANCE: MICROECONOMICS**

*How do the individual and business operate and interact in an economy? What is the role of the government?*

- The “rules” of capitalism – is the deck stacked?
- Supply and Demand
- Competition
- Business and Corporate America

#### **UNIT III – MONEY AND THE WORLD: MACROECONOMICS**

*How do we navigate a connected, hyper-capitalistic world? Is sustainable capitalism possible?*

- Made in the USA?
- Labor and unemployment
- GDP and recession
- Government and policy decisions
- Globalization – benefits whom?

#### **Grades/Credit:**

As you all know, the way I grade is relatively simple: *Each assignment we do is worth points. The more important an assignment is, the more points the assignment is worth. At the end of the grading period I add up all the points, do a little division, and arrive at your grade. Here is the rough break down of what we will do:*

- 25% Essays and papers
- 25% Projects
- 20% Participation
- 15% Mid Term (October 25<sup>th</sup>)
- 15% Final Exam (Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Materials needed:**

- **TEXTBOOK** – Your textbook should be left at home. Reading assignments will be assigned and you must be responsible for the readings.
- **3 RING BINDER** – where articles, notes, and handouts can be stored.
- **NOTEBOOK/LOOSE PAPER**
- **WRITING INSTRUMENT**
- **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT:** you must have access to a computer, have an appropriate email address, and a USB flash drive.

## Computer or printer problems are not an excuse for late work.

**Current Events Requirement:**

Economics is part of our daily news. Because of this, up to 5% of your grade will depend on you keeping up with what is going on in the news of the world. So start reading that front page and watch the first 15 minutes of the 5 o'clock news. (Don't worry!...if you make even the smallest effort, this will be easy!)

**Late Policy:**

Assignments will be reduced 10% for each day of lateness and will not be accepted after **THREE** days without an excused absence. Extensions for excused absences must be arranged with the teacher immediately upon return.

**Classroom Expectations and other things:**

- **Responsibility** – This means exactly what it sounds like. Be responsible for your education and your actions, after all most of you will be in the “real world” in a year.
- **Respect** – Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, our classroom, and the learning process.
- **Presence** – Embrace your education! Come to class on time, bring what you need, and focus on the topics we cover.
- **Speak your mind.** I hope that you all of you will be active participates
- **Come to class (on time).** As many of you know, BHS has an attendance policy that may impact your grade.

**To sum up...**I will be running a tight ship this year. Know that this is because I want to ensure that all of you walk out of my classroom knowledgeable about economics and government, with a passing grade (if not a great grade), and onto the stage at the Greek Theater next June.

**Caveat:**

*...IF YOU GAMBLE WITH YOUR GRADE AND DO NOT EARN ENOUGH CREDIT YOU WILL NOT PASS MY CLASS AND MAY NOT GRADUATE ON TIME.*

