

Comprehensive U.S. and Global Economics

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course on economic principles, students explore choices they face as producers, consumers, investors, and taxpayers. Students apply what they learn to real-world simulation problems. Topics of study include markets from historic and contemporary perspectives; supply and demand; theories of early economic philosophers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo; theories of value; money (what it is, how it evolved, the role of banks, investment houses, and the Federal Reserve); Keynesian economics; how capitalism functions, focusing on productivity, wages, investment, and growth; issues of capitalism, such as unemployment, inflation, and the national debt; and a survey of markets in such areas as China, Europe, and the Middle East.

PREREQUISITES: U.S. Government and Politics (or equivalent) is recommended but not required.

COURSE LENGTH: One Semester

REQUIRED TEXT: None

MATERIALS LIST: None

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1: The Game of Economics

- What is Economics Anyway?
- Different Ways to Play
- Dollars and Sense
- Technology and Economics

Unit 2: The Players

- Consumers and Producers
- Consumer Choice
- The Business of Business
- Business Models and Model Businesses

Unit 3: The Price is Right

- Supply and Demand: It's the Law
- Get a Job

- Find a Place to Live
- The Ups and Downs of the Economy

Unit 4: Money, Money, Money

- Money in the Bank
- The Stock Market
- More Markets
- Financing a Business
- Money, Money, Money

Unit 5: The Government Gets Involved

- Taxes and Tariffs
- The Government Is a Consumer
- The Government Is a Referee
- The Government Is a Police Officer

Unit 6: The Global Board Game

- It's a Small World
- International Organizations
- The Challenge of Globalization

Unit 7: Playing the Game Yourself: Personal Finance

- Making Choices
- Planning Ahead
- Give Me Some Credit
- The Responsible Consumer

Unit 8: U.S. and Global Economics Review and Exam

- Review
- Exam