Course Description

This course is designed to help you develop critical thinking skills through understanding, application and analysis of fundamental economics concepts. The concepts and materials covered will include: fundamental economic concepts, macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economic concepts, the impact of globalization, and personal finance. I am looking forward to working with each of you. I try my best to treat my students with fairness and respect and I expect the same from you. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. I am committed to working with you to ensure you are successful and enjoy the class.

Text:


Note that we will use lots of supplemental reading materials and other resources throughout the semester.

Topics: (This is a general outline and will change, the numbers indicate the chapter and section in the Clayton textbook). Note: Not all covered chapters and sub-chapters are listed on this syllabus.

August: Stock Market Basics / Stock Market Picks
- **Fundamental Economic Concepts:**
  - Scarcity and Choice (1.1)
  - Opportunity Cost and Trade-Offs (1.3)
  - Productivity and Economic Systems (2.1)

September: Business Forms (3.1)
- Exchange, Money (11.1) and Interdependence
- **Microeconomic Concepts:**
  - Markets and Prices (6)
  - Supply and Demand (4, 5)
  - Competition and Market Structure (2.3, 7.1)

October: Income Distribution (10.1)
- Market Failure (7.2)
- Role of Government (7.3)
- **Macroeconomic Concepts:**
  - Gross Domestic Product (13.1-13.3)

November: Unemployment (14.2)
- Inflation and Deflation (14.3)
- Monetary and Fiscal Policy (15)
- Aggregate Supply and Demand (16.2)
- **International Trade:**
  - Absolute and Comparative Advantage (17.1)
Expectations of Students

1. Come to class prepared to work and do your best. Finish out-of-class assignments as assigned and keep up. We will cover a lot of material over the semester and it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind.

2. You are to take notes in class and maintain a 3-ring binder. You will receive lots of handouts and complete many assignments over the course of the semester, so get a large binder.

3. Work should be completed in blue or black ink, and outside assignments should be typed.

4. All assignments will be due at the beginning of class, and tests and quizzes will start at the beginning of class unless otherwise announced.

5. Make up tests and assignments must be completed within three days of your return to school. Essays assigned in advance are due the day you return.

6. It is your responsibility to pick up any handouts missed due to absence.

7. Class will begin on time and you will be expected to be on time and be ready to work by the time class starts. I use an attendance board which I will explain the first day of class; please use this to “check-in” and record if you are late. If you are late to my class twice, you will be assigned an in-class detention and will help me with some project or work that I need help with. After your second tardy you will be subject to further consequences, including formal tardy reporting to Ms. Zebrak, after-school detention and/or a parent conference.

8. Please do not chew gum in my class.

9. Do your own work. I will make the expectations for each assignment clear, including whether you can work with others or use outside materials. I will ask you to sign a certification on tests, quizzes and some other assignments, confirming that you have done your own work. If the case of cheating, the minimum consequence will be a “0” on the assignment and a conference with a parent.

10. It is against school policy to have cell phones in class, or in the hallways between classes. If I see you with a cell phone, I will confiscate it in accordance with school policy.

11. My preferred method of communication outside of class is email. You need to make sure that I can reach you using your Weber School email. It is your responsibility to make sure this email works and that you check it regularly.

12. I will use a class website located at http://weberecon.edublogs.org/ to post information about assignments, resources, and discussion items. You should bookmark this site and refer to it when you have questions about assignments or are looking for class resources.
Grading

Consistent with the grade ranges established by The Weber School, your final grades will be determined based on the following ranges:

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<th>If your final class average is</th>
<th>Your letter grade is:</th>
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<td>96.50</td>
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<td>92.50</td>
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Your final class letter grade will be established by taking the total points earned during both terms and dividing them by the total possible points earned during both terms. Note that the second term will likely include more points than the first term.

An approximate breakdown of points, subject to change based on my judgment, your feedback and the rhythm of the class, follows:

Formal Assessments: 50% (300 points)
   (tests and quizzes)
Major projects: 30% (180 points)
   (stock market game, group project, individual project)
Small projects: 20% (120 points)
   (homework, in-class projects)
Total: 100% (600 points)

Formal assessments worth more than 10 points will be planned based on the school-wide test calendar. Quizzes worth 10 points or less may be administered without consulting the test calendar. In general, I do not give “pop” quizzes, but I reserve the right to do so if I feel the class is not keeping up with assignments. **Note that I do not plan to have a final exam in this class, but I reserve the right to do so if I feel it would be appropriate based on where the class is in November or December.**

Stock Market Game: Early in the semester, every student will pick three stocks that he or she will follow throughout the semester. You will be responsible for reporting stock and company performance, history, corporate goals, and other information.
Extra Help and Office Hours

Please speak with me if at any time you feel you are not living up to your potential or you are having issues in the class. My official office hours are Mondays and Thursdays at lunch, but I am typically available other days during lunch and before or after school by appointment. Please email me at mwhite@weberschool.org with questions or to set up an appointment. I am looking forward to working with you this year!
I have received and read a copy of the 2009-2010 Economics syllabus. If you have any questions about the syllabus, or if anything is not clear, please see me or email me at mwhite@weberschool.org.

_________________________________  _________________________________
Student      Date

_________________________________  _________________________________
Parent / Guardian     Date