

Economics

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Introduction

Welcome to Economics! I hope you'll get a great deal out of this class and in the process that we'll have a lot of fun learning together. I expect a lot of enthusiasm, participation, and thinking from you. It's going to be hard, but it'll be really interesting!

Description

This class will give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and to develop students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics.

Practical Matters

Due to the nature of the course and the vast amount of material involved students are expected to become learners both IN and OUT of the classroom. **Homework** will be assigned some nights; students will be informed in class and the information will also be posted on Canvas as well.

The **atmosphere** is to be one of respect. This must be the case if we are to share our knowledge and ideas with others. This means more than not interrupting others when they are speaking—it means listening attentively to others' thoughts and thinking carefully about their ideas. It means learning and using people's names. It means not sending the message that you have other things on your mind. **Cell phones MUST be out of sight during class (not seen or heard) or in the Cell Phone Holder** except when approved by the teacher, such as finding the answer to a question using a smart phone. Violation of this policy **WILL** result in confiscation! We will follow the discipline plan for Jefferson Academy; it's just common courtesy, you know.

Assignments are to be completed on time and in detail. I am very good about updating my website with assignments and homework. We will be using Canvas for our class this semester. On our class in Canvas, you will have access to all materials used or shown in class if needed.

Late work will not be accepted. That being said, if you are in the need of more time and ask me BEFORE the due date, there are opportunities for extensions. If you come to me on the due date or after the due date, the work will not be accepted.

For excused absences, you will have 2 days for every day you miss, and the clock starts when you come back to school. I keep everything on Canvas, so there is no reason for you to not be prepared.

Academic honesty is of utmost importance. Cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in an 0 on the assignment and a note in the gradebook. That being said, I do believe in the adage that **two heads are better than one**. We will do a lot of group work; you will brainstorm, think, discuss, and complete tasks with other people. However, there are times when it is inappropriate to work with anyone else. It is fun to study with a group of people. On the other hand, tests and papers are individual activities. If you ever feel confused about if it is appropriate to work with other students, please ask before you begin.

Attendance is important. I adhere to the school's attendance policy as detailed in the Student/Parent Handbook. If you miss class, see Canvas. Don't ask me any questions about

make-up work until you have looked at the lessons online AND asked another student. You should be prepared for class every day, so you are expected to be caught up from absences before walking or logging into class

Tardies are not helpful for you or me so please avoid being late to school. If tardies become a problem, please come talk to me first, otherwise we will have to get Mr. Williams involved as well, and let's be honest: nobody wants that.

Extra help is always available. If you need clarification or extra help, please ask for it! I will be in the Commons before school, and after school by appointment. I check my jajags.com email address all the time, so emailing me there if you cannot stop by is the best way to get your questions answered.

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, we will also be using **Remind** to help us all communicate, and allow me, especially if we go 100% remote, to reach out to you all on a more instant basis. The Remind code is **@ek676a**. Text that to 81010 and you should be added to our class.

Materials you need for this class include loose-leaf paper, pens/pencils (any color is fine as long as it is dark enough to read), a handful of index cards, highlighters, a small stapler, and a binder/folder. I recommend these to be used whether you are attending in-person or remote. Try to keep your school experience as normal as you can will help you greatly in the upcoming quarter.

Our **textbook** is *Understanding Economics*. We have digital licenses which you will be expected to sign up for and use throughout the semester. You will sign up at **<https://my.mheducation.com/login>**. You will need to create an account if you do not have one. Once you have logged in, you will need the redemption code to get access to the Economics book. The redemption code is: **LENN-262N-GZCO**. That should get you to the book. If not, please email me ASAP.

Expectations

Even though we will have students attending on different days, or only attending virtually, the expectations will be very similar, yet also tailored for the method of attending school.

In-Person students

- Always wear your mask while in the building
- Remain 6 feet away from other people at all times
- Pay attention to the material being presented
- Take copious notes, either in person or from the online work
- Keep up with the work when you're at home; there won't always be time in class to complete it
- Log into the weekly Zoom calls to ask questions and interact with the entire class
- ASK QUESTIONS (there is significantly less time in class than normal, so if you are even the little bit lost, please ask questions.)

Remote students

- Log in each and every day to make sure you're up to date on material and information
- Watch the lectures as many times as you need to make sure you have the information (you won't be able to ask questions immediately or get an immediate response most of the time)

- Take copious notes on the online lectures and work. It will help you remember the information
- Keep up with the work at home; as we all learned last year, there are LOTS of distractions at home
- Log into the weekly Zoom calls to ask questions and interact with the entire class
- ASK QUESTIONS (with being at home 100%, it is super important that you ask questions whenever you have them, because it's easy to get left behind)

There will be opportunities for both in-person and remote students to work together on projects, so you need to make sure that however you're attending class, you keep up with the work.

I have some **pet peeves** and feel that you deserve heads up.

- First, if you must arrive late, come in as quietly as possible. Explanations and questions are appropriate later. Calling additional attention to yourself and wasting others' time is unacceptable.
- Do not interrupt and/or make a spectacle of yourself. Second, any interruption to my class, such as sharpening your pencil, stapling papers, making inappropriate comments, or not coming to class prepared, is inappropriate and will be dealt with by a connoption fit from your teacher. If you think I wouldn't approve, don't do it.
- Use furniture for appropriate purposes; please do not sit on the desk tops.
- Never use the phrase, "Did I miss anything?" when you come back from an absence. It is offensive—of course you missed something. Instead, ask a specific question that demonstrates that you have already looked at the website and spoken with another student in the class.

Topics and Themes

- **Basic Economic Concepts and Principles**
- **Measurement of Economic Performance**
- **National Income and Price Determination**
- **Financial Sector**
- **Stabilization**
- **Economic Growth**
- **International Trade and Finance**

Grading Information

The **grade scale** is a basic ten-point scale.

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

A: You put forth maximum effort on each and every task assigned, activity in class, project given, and overall had a positive attitude in class. Very high level of self advocacy.

B: You put forth good effort on each and every task assigned, activity in class, project given, and had a good attitude the majority of the time in class. Self advocacy is a priority for the student.

C: You put forth average effort on each task assigned, activity, project, and had a mostly positive attitude in class. Some attempt made to get extra help. Average level of self advocacy.

D: You put forth very little effort on each task assigned, activity, project, and had a somewhat negative attitude in class. Little effort put into getting extra help.

F: You put forth no effort on each task assigned, activity, project, and had a negative attitude in class. No effort to receive extra help either.

Classroom Activities and Homework: Students will be involved in numerous large and small learning activities, debates and discussions throughout the semester.
(25% of grade)

Writing: We will work on writing with specificity and analysis throughout the semester. There will be 3 papers assigned during the quarter. Papers will be developed in 1 sitting lasting 60-90 minutes. You are expected to do the research, formulate your answer and write your paper. I am expecting 2 – 3 pages in length. We will utilize **turnitin.com** throughout the quarter. The class ID is **25335673** and the Enrollment Key (Password) is **Keynes2020**. Papers will be considered late if they are turned in after the bell rings at the end of class on the due date. I feel like this is a much better option for Economics instead of trying to force a 5+ page research paper upon you instead.
(30% of grade)

Writing Schedule: **September 9th, September 23rd, September 30th.**

Tests: 3 tests will be given throughout the semester, covering a range of topics. Each test will consist of multiple-choice questions and essay questions/graphing problems for you to answer. If you miss a test, you will have 2 days to make it up; otherwise, it will go down in the gradebook as a ZERO. I will allow you to do test corrections on **2** of the tests throughout the semester. Test corrections will involve you being able to prove to me that not only you learned the right answer, but also **WHY** it was the right answer. You must talk to me before or after school to be approved to do test corrections on a test. You will be able to earn up to **HALF** the points you missed on the multiple-choice section, which will be added to your grade on the test. You will have 1 week after the test has been graded to complete your test corrections.

Test Schedule: **September 2nd, September 16th, October 7th .**
(25% of grade)

Final Exam: The final exam will be given according to the Jefferson Academy Final exam schedule at the end of the semester. The final exam can consist of multiple choice questions, short answer and essay questions/graphing questions for you to answer over topics covered on the previous tests, plus any other material not covered on other tests
(10% of grade)

Discussion: There will be a multitude of discussion threads running at different times and including different topics throughout the course. The discussion threads allow the entire class to engage and interact with each other, regardless of the setting. These are going to be valuable to helping drive your learning of the material.
(10% of grade)

Helpful Hints

Writing: If you find that you are having trouble, spend about an hour and read the very short and helpful book, *Elements of Style*, at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/> This is a timeless classic that will help improve your writing immensely, and will help you with your writing throughout high school and college.

Have fun!!

