

### **Course Description**

Economics is a one-semester inquiry based course designed to develop students understanding of the economic problems and institutions of the nation and the world in which they live. This introductory course will lay the foundation that will allow them to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners and managers, and members of civic groups.

### **Course Outline/Objectives**

One semester course consisting of four units 4-5 weeks each with the following goals:

- Unit 1- Understand and demonstrate a high degree of mastery of the 7 ways of economic thinking, budgeting, core economic concepts/vocabulary.
- Unit 2- Understand what determines prices. Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the forces of supply and demand.
- Unit 3- Understand the different types of business organization, role of labor, money supply and the role of investing.
- Unit 4 – Understand how the health of the economy is measured, taxation, business cycles- the causes, symptoms, government responses to the different phases, and the different goals of various economic systems and the associated challenges in achieving those goals.

### **Grades**

Grades earned by the student represent a cumulative points total for the semester. I do not give individual quarter grades. All grades received prior to semester final grade should be treated as a progress reports. Grades are based on coursework in the following 4 areas: (% are approximate)

- **Current Events (20%)**- this is the primary homework assignment each week. Within each unit you will be required to do one written, one blog response, one discussion article and an article with your own question about the article.
- **Projects, class work, tests/quizzes (40%)**- Each unit consists of one to two quizzes, one minor project and one test and/or major project for you to demonstrate your level of understanding of the unit benchmarks. Note: In order for you to earn an A in the class you must average a B+ or better on your projects/tests. In order to pass the course, you must attain a minimum of 70% on all projects and tests. Access period can be utilized to bring up scores in this category.
- **Journals (20%)**- Each day students will have between 1-5 journal entries to do in class. A simple notebook in which the pages can be easily and neatly removed will suffice. Journal responses typically range from 3-5 sentences, should be numbered accordingly and leave a space between each entry. Journal grades are evaluated on the basis of student engagement and effort.
- **Participation (20%)**- Each week students will be evaluated on how well they participate in class. This includes such things as being on task, small in-class assignments, website interaction, being an active/positive contributor to class discussions/environment.

### **Late Assignments/Goofs**

In general, no late work will be accepted. Assignments are considered on time if they are turned in the day they are due (presentations the period they are due). If a student is absent the day the assignment is due and the can turn the assignment in upon their return assuming they have an excused absence. Late assignments because of unexcused absences will not be accepted.

**Goofs-** Students have a one time goof available for one late assignment during the semester. A student can use their one goof to turn an assignment within 10 school days of the assigned due date or two Fridays before finals week which ever is earlier. Write "I Goofed" on the front of the assignment when you turn it in.

### **Extra Credit**

Students can do a limited amount of extra credit on teacher approved assignments. Extra credit points can impact a grade a maximum of 5% and added after all other points are calculated and only if the extra credit changes the final grade. Please see me about extra credit opportunities.

### **My Expectations/Class rules**

This is very simple: come to class prepared, be a positive participant, and be respectful to your fellow students, the classroom, and me.

### **Discipline procedure**

Depending on the severity of situation for following options exist:

- a) Go outside to "cool" off.
- b) Call home.
- c) Go to principal to "cool" off
- d) Go to principal and call home.
- e) Meeting with parents, counselor, and principal.

For more information such as copy of this syllabus, major course assignments, class news, and course related links please visit the staff webpage on the district website or visit [saintshs.weebly.com](http://saintshs.weebly.com). I look forward to working with all of you this upcoming school year. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [mluelsdorf@sthelena.k12.ca.us](mailto:mluelsdorf@sthelena.k12.ca.us) or 967-2740 x2133.

Please sign the following acknowledging that you have read and understand the course syllabus.

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Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature