

Economics 2020-2021



Teacher Info

Ms. Jessica Parfitt
jparfitt@pittsburgusd.net
(925) 473-2390 ext. 7776

Office Hours

Before or after school by appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of both Macroeconomics and Microeconomics. Students will focus on understanding the basic academic vocabulary of Economics, the concepts of supply and demand, decision making of businesses and households, understanding the Economic philosophies behind the US economy, fiscal and monetary policy, trade policies, globalization and its impacts, and personal financial literacy.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A REQUIRED CLASS FOR PHS GRADUATION. FAILURE TO PASS THIS CLASS WILL RESULT IN FAILURE TO GRADUATE ON TIME.

Required Textbook

Principles of Economics - McGraw Hill

- We do not use the textbook a lot for this course, but it is a very helpful supplemental resource. As we move through the course, if you find a topic that you need more information on, please use the index to look up the topic within the book for extra reading.

Grading

| Category | Participation | Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 | Unit 4 |
|------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Percentage | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% |

Participation Grade

This portion of your grade will be based on your active participation during both live Zoom meetings and the afternoon distance learning sessions. You will earn 5 points a week for attending all sessions, following all Zoom guidelines, and for your active participation in the Zoom meetings and activities. You will also be asked to complete a Flipgrid weekly check-in at the end of each week.

Weekly Check-In:

- This check-in will be done using Flipgrid - a website that allows you to complete a short video post. These posts are just for quick communication between yourself and me to let me know how things went for you each week. If the week went fine, it is okay to just post a quick video that says just that, but if you're having a hard time with any of the content, assignments, or you're having distance learning issues, then let me know.
- These will be due by Sunday afternoon so that I have time to check them all before the start of the next week. This will allow me an opportunity to assist you in any way I can and to see if there is something I can change in the week to better help you out.
- You will earn credit just for posting one anytime between Friday and Sunday afternoon.

Unit Grade

This portion of your grade will be based on the completion of your 'in class' and distance learning assignments and the scores you earn on your assessments. Each unit will be made up of distance learning assignments to be completed before or after our Zoom meetings and lessons. These smaller assignments will be worth between 5-10 points. Assessments will come in the form of either quizzes or written assignments and will be worth 20-50 points.

Late Work

The easiest way to find success in this class is to complete the assignments as they are assigned. Because each assignment builds on each other, it is difficult to catch up once you miss an assignment. I am always willing to allow you to redo an assignment for full credit if an assignment is submitted on time and it is clear that an effort was made on the original submission (meaning - it is not copied from another student & it was fully attempted). Due to this, late work will only earn you 50% of your score on that assignment. For example, if you submit an assignment late and would have earned 8/10, you will now only earn 4/10 with no possibility of making it up. Also, I will only accept late work during that particular unit, so all Unit 1 work must be submitted by the end of Unit 1. If you miss an assessment, then you must reach out to me the day it is due or the next day.

Extra Credit/Work and Extra Help

There will be no extra credit or extra work given, but if you are not understanding any concept or do poorly on any assignment or assessment you may reach out individually for extra help. The goal is to show mastery of the content and I understand that it may require more support for certain topics and certain assignments. If you need extra help with anything please reach out via email or Remind to set up a time to meet.

Tardies and Unexcused Absences

You should make every effort to be in class on time and be present every time we meet. Unexcused absences and tardies will affect your participation grade in this class. If you are going to be late or need to miss a class for any reason, please let me know beforehand, so I can keep you on pace with the course.

Communication with the Teacher

I am available for meetings before and after school by appointment only. If you would like to meet please let me know so that we can set up a time as soon as possible. Please ensure that I can identify you when you do reach out. This means that if you reach out by email, then you should email me from your PHS Google account and if you send me a text via Remind it should be from your full name. If I do not know who you are it will make it difficult to help you.

When sending an email, it is best to begin using best practices, so in the *subject line* please state the topic of your concern. In the *message* of the email, do your best to explain your concern or question in as much detail as you can. If it is an issue with something on the computer, please include a screenshot if possible. When signing off, please use your full name and period.

Course Breakdown

Unit 1: Introduction to Economics

- What is Economics?
- Opportunity Cost - micro and macro
- Supply and Demand

Unit 2: The US Economy

- American economic system
- Fiscal Policy
- Monetary Policy

Unit 3: Trade and Globalization

- Specialization and Comparative Advantage
- Globalization - Impacts and criticisms

Unit 4: Personal Finance

- W-4s and Paystubs
- W-2s and taxes
- Saving and Investing
- Budgeting

Weekly Schedule

Cohort A

| | Monday, Wednesday, Thursday | Tuesday & Friday | Google Class Code | Remind |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Period 1 | 8:45-9:30 (75 min) | 1:15-1:45 (30 min) | 4dyl26w | @parfecona |
| Period 2 | 9:55-11:10 (75 min) | 1:50-2:20 (30 min) | sjehhn6 | |

Cohort B

| | Monday & Thursday | Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday | Google Class Code | Remind |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Period 1 | 1:15-1:45 (30 min) | 8:45-9:30 (75 min) | az4kyg7 | @parfeconb |
| Period 2 | 1:50-2:20 (30 min) | 9:55-11:10 (75 min) | ashlusu | |

Zoom Guidelines

When participating in Zoom class sessions, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- When on Zoom, you must use your full name to sign-on
- Be prompt by logging into all of the necessary online platforms (Google Classroom/ Zoom) a few minutes before the beginning of class.
- Be sure to dress appropriately as your video will need to be turned on during our Zoom class time.
* This will be a requirement in order to receive credit for attendance and participation. *
- When on Zoom, please be in a quiet location with no distractions.
- Even though we are distance learning, I expect you to participate by adding to class discussions and asking questions.
- When on Zoom, please mute yourself when the teacher or another student is speaking.
- When you want to speak, please still raise your hand and wait to be called upon and make sure what you are contributing is on topic and appropriate for school.
- Just like in class, you should not be on your cell phone/distracted while our Zoom class is in session.
- Just like in class, you need to stay for the whole class period. Tardies and absences will result in a phone call home.

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in you being removed from the Zoom session and losing your participation points for that day