
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: HONORS ECONOMICS

Course Overview and Essential Skills

This fast paced honors course will introduce you to the basics behind the science of both micro and macroeconomics. It will include nightly reading assignments as well as homework responsibilities. While this course will offer an introduction to economics; an emphasis will be placed on high level reading and writing assignments as well as document/resource question analysis. It necessitates critical thinking skills through class participation in discussion and group activities. By analyzing economic markets, models, systems, and terms students will begin to understand the economic way of thinking. Additionally, students will study business and investment, the role of the government in the economy, and performance indicators used to evaluate the health of the economy.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- Economics: Concepts and Choices, 2011 ISBN#: 978-0-547-08924-3
- Online Text Access: classzone.com code for student access is 7362221-20
- A three ring binder is recommended for this course

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Introduction to Economics: The Free Enterprise System	In this unit students will be introduced to economics and economic ways of thinking. A basic framework for economic analysis is studied including creating and analyzing economic models, along with the framework of our market system and comparisons to command and traditional systems. <i>Resources:</i> Along Came Polly (short clip), A Knights Tale (short clip), Three Economists and Their Theories, Lego Movie, Articles and news clips from news sources	2 weeks
Supply, Demand, and Price Determination	In this unit markets and the factors that affect the way that markets perform are studied. Students learn about our price system by studying demand and supply along with factors which affect them. They will also evaluate goals and results of government intervention in the market place <i>Resources:</i> Cool Hand Luke (short clip), Planet Money Podcast, Crash Course Economics, The Simpsons (clips), 60 minutes, Articles and news clips from news sources	3 weeks
Business Organization and Markets	In this unit the four types of market structures are examined compared and contrasted. Various business organizations are also examined compared and contrasted. Additionally, how the nation's financial markets connect a bridge between corporate finance and individual long-term savings/investment possibilities will also be explored. The student will learn about the operation of these markets and how investors choose from the many investment options. <i>Resources:</i> Amazon Rising, Articles and news clips from news sources	3 weeks
Measuring Economic Performance	This unit begins our study of macroeconomics. Topics include the study of national accounting measures including Gross Domestic Product. Analysis and creation of models include Aggregate supply and demand as well as the business cycle. Other macroeconomic concepts include unemployment, income inequality, and inflation <i>Resources:</i> We the Economy, Inside Job, Austin Powers International Man of Mystery (short clip), Articles and news clips from news sources	3 weeks
Taxes, Deficits, and the National Debt	This unit includes an in depth study of taxation and its history in the U.S. Students will identify various types of taxes and evaluate their effectiveness.	2 weeks

	<p>Students will describe where taxes are spent and evaluate the national budget and the implications of the resulting deficits that occur.</p> <p><i>Resources:</i> Ten Trillion and Counting, Planet Money Podcast, Articles and news clips from news sources</p>	
Monetary and Fiscal Policy	<p>This unit includes the study of fiscal and monetary policy approaches to stabilization. Students will compare and contrast strengths and weaknesses of each policy</p> <p><i>Resources:</i> Crash Course Economics, Articles and news clips from news sources</p>	3 weeks
The Global Economy & International Trade	<p>This unit includes a study of international trade organizations and agreements. Students will evaluate free trade compared to various trade barriers and take an in depth look at organizations like the WTO, IMF, and NGOs.</p> <p><i>Resources:</i> Is Globalization a bad word?, We the Economy, Econ Alive!, Articles and news clips from news sources</p>	2 weeks

****Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***