



2017-2018 COURSE SYLLABUS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Term and Year: Spring 2017
Name of Instructor: Brett Williams
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Class Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/economicswithmrwilliams/>

GENERAL COURSE OVERVIEW

The course will develop students personal finance knowledge and skills, as well as provide context for understanding micro and macroeconomic developments including understanding of U.S. fiscal and monetary policy. Most importantly, students will gain understanding of and appreciation for the central tenet of Economics: that life is a series of choices, and that each choice individuals and firms make have costs and benefits. Students who begin to think in economic terms will enjoy greater success throughout their life in financial, business, and social spheres.

TEXTBOOKS AND/OR REQUIRED READING

O'Sullivan, Arthur; Sheffrin, Steven M. *Economics: Principles in Action*, Boston: Pearson Education, Inc., 2007.

COURSE EMPHASIS

Content Area	Chapters	Unit Outline
1. Introduction to Economics	1-2	1/29-2/16
2. Supply, Demand, Prices, Market Structures	4-7	2/28-3/16
3. Business and Labor	8-9	3/19-3/23
4. Measuring Economic Performance	12-13	4/2-4/13
5. Taxes, Fiscal, & Monetary Policy	14-16	4/16-4/27
6. The Global Economy	17-18	4/30-5/11
7. Personal Finance + From Job to Career	10-11	5/14-6/1
TOTAL	~100%	16 weeks

*For the week of February 20th-February 27th curriculum will be focused on Operation Protect and Defend. During that time, federal and state judges come and present before the classes on a specific legal issue. Last year we focused on Japanese internment and the challenges our government faces in keeping us safe today . The week will culminate with students writing an essay on the topic. Interested students can enter their essay in the contest the organization holds each year. Last year Kennedy students won over \$3500.

GRADING

As the course will be reliant upon so many different styles of learning it is critical to pull these apart in the grading program to isolate specific strengths and challenges for each student. However, there will not be category weighting for these areas below. In other words, 10 points on a quiz is no different than 10 points for a homework assignment.

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Tests	MC Exams
Quizzes	Quizzes (Oral, Fill-in, MC)
In Class Assignments	Close Readings, Worksheets, *PACE Req.s, etc.
Writing Assignments	Shorter Writing Assignments & Essays
Projects/Presentations	Debate project, Civic Action Project, group presentations, From Job to Career

*Only students who are in PACE will be required to turn in those assignments.

HOMEWORK POLICIES (Read carefully here students)

We will cover all that we can in class, but there will be a fair amount of reading, researching and writing outside of class as well. The bulk of the homework will be reading from the text. The rest of the homework will be devoted towards preparing for your debate project, the Civic Action Project, smaller class debates and presentations, as well as for writing assignments.

Chapter notes will not be collected this semester, but can instead be counted as an insurance plan for your exams. If you do each set of chapter notes for a unit, and turn it in on the day of the test, assuming you scored less than 90%, you can receive up to a 10% bump on your total score. The thinking here is that we are not all test takers, but special recognition is only deserved for those who take special steps in effectively preparing.

We will be moving very quickly, so get all your work in on time. **Late work** will receive **zero credit**. I understand things come up though, so in the event that you are not able to turn something in on time, please make sure you attach the **Late/Incomplete Work form** to your assignment before submitting it. You can find these on my website, in the left sidebar. Each student is able to use three per semester.

If you are absent, you have as many days as you were absent to make up the material. You are responsible for getting any assignments you missed. If you are turning in work late because you were absent, be sure to tell me so I can check it off rather than marking it late. **I will not accept work on a unit of study after we have tested.** You will also need to contact me if you are late on the day of a group presentation by phone or email and get clearance from attendance for illness, **without these expect a 0**. First and foremost though, please remember to communicate with me regarding your absences and/or inability to get work in on time. We need to work together this year, and the only way we can do that is if we are open and honest with each other.

PROJECTS

Debate Project

This project will require groups of four (two Pro, two Con) to debate on an assigned issue. The 9 different debate issues/ prompts can be found below in the directions for the Term Paper project. The format of the debate is Public Forum, and directions for this style can be found on my website. We will of course be discussing this format in class as well to help best prepare you.

1. Should Congress pass a minimum wage tied to inflation?
2. Are small businesses struggling significantly under the regulatory system in California?
3. Are the right to work laws in a growing number of states hurting the middle class?
4. Are women paid less for the same work?
5. Should California establish a single payer health care system?
6. Has supply side economics proven more effective in stimulating the U.S. economy?
7. Can the Federal Reserve resolve financial crises in an equitable manner?

8. Are free trade policies like NAFTA responsible for the declining manufacturing base in the United States?
9. Should Congress significantly cut funding for foreign aid?

Civic Action Project

This project was started 1st semester in A.P. Government and will be completed this semester.

From Job to Career Project

This project will wrap up the year. The goal is to take students from identifying their dream job to taking those initial steps towards that dream job. Guest speakers, research, resume building, applying for a job (simulated applications are accepted, cover letters, and a mock interview are all part of it.

Expect smaller projects throughout the semester as well. These will offer more class time preparation, and should not last more than 3-4 days.

All of these projects are group projects. These projects will require you to work as part of a diverse team. I am well aware of the challenges group work can pose, and will do what is in my power to mitigate some of those challenges on my end where I can. It's worth noting though that this is one of the primary areas many managers are saying is lacking among college graduates, according to an article in Fast Times in May 2016.

TESTS & QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given at least once a week. These quizzes could take a variety of different forms, and combinations of students. Sometimes, they may be questions involving matching, and other times they may be an oral vocabulary quiz for a group. All quizzes though will place special emphasis on the vocabulary terms, so please ensure you stay on top of those each unit. I have posted numerous resources on my website from Crash Course videos and study guides to graphic organizers. These quizzes, in most cases cannot be made up since they are assigned in groups oftentimes, so in order to make up the points students may turn in the Vocabulary Template from my website on the assigned chapter. Those templates will be due the Friday following the quiz that week. Please note on the template that you wish to have those points assigned to the specific quiz that you missed.

Note, that if you need to turn in a Vocabulary Template for a given quiz it cannot be counted towards insurance on a unit exam.

Tests will be given usually on Fridays. Tests also will range from multiple choice, short answer, and fill in the blank, or any combination therein.

Tests can be made up Thursday mornings at 7:20 sharp or after school Thursday afternoons during 6th period. If you are unable to make either of these times, please see me to determine a time that can work for both of us. Note that the teacher may use an alternate test.

RETESTING POLICY

Each student has an opportunity to retest any unit exam throughout the term. Understand that the second score will be the score you keep, so be ready to take more effective steps in preparing for the retake. Every Tuesday I will hold lunch tutoring sessions to discuss upcoming exams/quizzes, go over the last quiz/exam to help prepare students for the retake, or to discuss project requirements more in depth. The retests will take place the same time as the makeup exams indicated above and should be done within one week of the original exam. These requirements are intended to help the student meet with success.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be respectful, courteous, and civil at all times. The following are a few of the more notable expectations students will follow:

1. Be on time physically and mentally.
2. Treat others with respect at all times, especially when confronting ideas different than your own.
3. Be on task, and offer help to others if you finish early (when appropriate)
4. Keep your electronic devices hidden and silent unless the instructor approves use.
5. Adhere to the JFK expectations of academic integrity.*

*Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the attempt to pass off the ideas, research, theories, or words of others as one's own" (College Board). There are however a number of assignments throughout the year where the teacher will encourage you to talk about your responses with your classmates, but note that your work is **your work** and should always remain in your possession unless the teacher is currently grading it. Plagiarizing **any** assignment will **result** in a **0** for that assignment. Cheating on any quiz or exam will also immediately result in a zero for that assignment. Students caught cheating will not be able to make up the points lost on these assignments. Plagiarizing or cheating a second time will lead to an Unsatisfactory mark for Citizenship for the semester and a parent conference with the possibility of more severe consequences depending on the situation. The teacher and administration determine the degree of the severity of the consequence. In this class my ultimate goal is for you to develop **YOUR VOICE**. You may use the cited ideas and arguments of others to help support your arguments, but they still must be your arguments. It's **your position** that I want above all else in this class.

FINAL NOTE

Please note that after teaching 14 years I have learned that every group of students is different. With that in mind, I reserve the right to change policies indicated above at any time during the semester. Before these changes occur though I will be sure to announce them in class and post a notice of these changes on the class website.

I want to end saying what an honor it is teaching these you this year. Please consider me your advocate here at Kennedy High School. You have a support system here at Kennedy as well as at home. Remember that and it will be a good year.

Economics Executive Summary

Please sign below to confirm you have downloaded, read and understand the syllabus provided for this class. The full Syllabus can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/economicswithmrwilliams/> By signing students and parents understand that...

- Participation is critical to your success. Be ready to make your mark.
- Vocabulary is critical, and succeeding means consistently reviewing the basic terms and concepts. Review tools for these can be found on my website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/economicswithmrwilliams/>
- The homework will largely consist of reading the assigned chapters of the textbook, preparation for your debate project, the Civic Action Project and the other smaller projects throughout the semester.
- These projects are group projects, please be ready to work as part of a diverse team.
- I do not expect memorization for presentations, but students are expected to **present** rather than read their main arguments/talking points. This conveys understanding, that the material is their own, and that they can help inform the rest of the class on the issue they were assigned.
- If you complete all the chapter notes for a unit, you may use them to boost your exam score, if you score less than 90%. Just turn them in all together on the day of the exam.
- Late work will not be accepted without a Late/Incomplete form attached.
- Each student may use up to three late forms per semester.
- Quizzes will happen once a week and fall typically on Mondays. They will be based on the Unit Plan with the relevant terms from the chapter(s) that given week.
- Unit exams will occur usually every two to three weeks on Fridays.
- All students are eligible to retest any unit exam once they have either completed the relevant homework and/or attended a lunch tutoring session before the retest.
- Retests and makeup exams will happen either Thursday before school from 7:20-8:15 or during 6th period that same day.
- Near the end of the semester you will be completing the From Job to Career project which is designed to help get students ready for their dream job.
- I frequently email and or post announcements so please make sure you check your school email regularly as well as your Google Class account for my class.
- Please remember above all, that I am your advocate here, but in order to fight for you, I need you to be open with me about how I can best do that. We're part of a team.

Please contact me to provide me any information about your child that might be pertinent to his/her educational experience this semester in A.P. Government (i.e., physical or cognitive limitations, exceptional experiences or capabilities).

I have read, understood, and will abide by all of the provisions of the entire U.S. Government and Politics syllabus.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Printed Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Please sign and return the following page of the syllabus to Mr. Williams **by Wednesday, January 31.**