



2021-2022 COURSE SYLLABUS

ECONOMICS

(5 credits/semester) SXS 203

GENERAL INFORMATION

Term and Year: Fall 2021

Name of Instructor: Brett Williams

Office Number: C-304

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E-mail Address: brett-williams@scusd.edu

Class Website: <https://sites.google.com/scusd.edu/economicswithwilliams/home>



COURSE OBJECTIVE

Ever wonder why gas prices keep rising? What will determine whether you can afford to live on your own once you graduate? What about how to invest in the stock market or file your taxes? Is our current economic system rigged to benefit the few over the many? These questions and many more will be explored. The ultimate aim is to learn how to read, listen and write with a critical eye. Knowing how to read, speak, and write well will take you anywhere, and those are all big focus areas in this class.

TEXTBOOKS AND/OR REQUIRED READING

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

- Hard copies of the text will be available along with digital versions posted on Google Classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE

Content Area	Chapters	Dates
1. Introduction to Economics	1-2	9/2-9/17
2. Supply, Demand, Prices, Market Structures*	4-7	9/20-10/8
3. Business and Labor	8-9	10/11-10/22
4. Measuring Economic Performance	12-13	10/25-11/4
5. Taxes, Fiscal, & Monetary Policy**	14-16	11/8-11/19
6. The Global Economy	17-18	11/28-12/10
***Senior Project Presentations + Prep	All the above	12/13-12/17

*A.P. U.S. Government will be starting Jan. 3rd to provide more time to prepare students for the exam on May 2nd.

GRADING

Quizzes	Multiple choice, short answer and essay. (Based on completion)	10%
Class Assignments	Worksheets, debate writeups, smaller projects.	15%
Projects	Debate Project and Senior Project	35%
Unit Assessments	The quiz you score highest will count as your unit assessment.	35%
Participation	Warmups, Class Surveys, On-task with group and assignments	5%

GRADING SCALE

A=89.5%+

B=79.5%+

C=69.5%+

D=59.5%+

F=59.4% or below



CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK POLICIES (Read carefully here students)

The bulk of your **homework** will be reading from the text to prepare for your weekly quizzes, preparation for projects and varied group presentations. The rest will be smaller class assignments sprinkled throughout.

Chapter notes will not be collected this semester, but can instead be **used during in class quizzes**. Those notes must be done to completion before class begins or they will not be counted. I expect you to use my templates or gain permission from me in advance on a style of notetaking that works better for you. A variation of Cornell Notes is a must.

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 it on my [website](#), in the 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 on Google Classroom. If you are turning in work late because you were absent, be sure to tell me so I can note that 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.

*Note, attendance may be strained due to periodic quarantines or challenges related to those quarantines. I understand that. This will force me to flex on some of the parameters I have set above. But, what I ask of you is to please communicate with me when attendance or meeting deadlines poses challenges. College professors will expect the same, and I think you will find both them and me flexible in many instances.

PROJECTS

Senior Project

The newly revised Senior Project is a chance for you to peer into the future. You will be developing a Five-Year Plan that will consist of 8 mini projects, a paper, and a culminating presentation that will wrap up the semester. The goal of this project above all else is to provide you with a strong sense of confidence in topics ranging from a job search to investing in the stock market. Recognizing that the plans you set here aren't written in stone but a chance for you to explore your future with the right kind of tools is the ultimate aim here. Find out more about the Senior Project [here](#).

Debate Project

You will also be engaging in a team debate on one of nine different issues that will be occurring throughout the semester. You will either be affirming the prompt, or negating it. The objective here is to learn how to effectively construct strong arguments based on valid sources, as well as how to refute counterarguments. Reading and listening critically are the keys to success here. Find out more about the debate project [here](#).

TESTS/QUIZZES/PRESENTATIONS

Quizzes will be given once a week. The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay. The notes templates should prove quite helpful in preparing for them. Find them [here](#). The textbook will be your primary



resource, but the chapter slides that can be found on my [website](#) can also be of great use. I have posted numerous resources on my website from Crash Course videos to presentation models. The quizzes, in most cases cannot be made up. In order to prevent losing quiz points you can turn in a [Vocabulary Template](#) on the assigned chapter by no later than the Friday after the quiz was given. Please label the Voc. Template clearly by which chapter it is, so I can tell which quiz to exempt you for. The Voc. Make sure the work is original.

Your quiz scores will be based on completion, and will require you to evaluate any written work using the provided rubric for the type of question assigned for that week. An explanation along with your score and that of a fellow classmate's is required, along with a brief explanation of the final score. You will also provide a prediction for your score on the multiple choice portion of each quiz, with an explanation of why you felt that was your score (i.e. I spent four hours this week completing the notes, and felt quite solid on the terms). In a given unit you will get a choice of which quiz I end up scoring. You will choose the one you scored highest. For instance, if you scored your MC and FRQ lower for your Chapter 1 Quiz than your Chapter 2 Quiz, then I will grade your Chapter 2 Quiz. The **score** for that quiz will count as your **unit test**. If you missed a quiz and had to turn in a Voc. Template instead then unfortunately you will not have a choice. Ensure you're there for every quiz if possible. If you miss each unit quiz, you will need to set a time to take an alternate make up quiz at a time that works for both of us.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

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 18 years I have learned that every group of students is different. Moreover, this global pandemic poses even more uncertainties. 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 communicate those changes with the students in advance, and announce those changes using Google Classroom and where possible, on my website.

I want to end saying what an honor it is teaching 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...

- Be ready to take risks. We're all going to be wrong at some point this semester, and likely at multiple points. Let's grow from that.
- Vocabulary is critical, and succeeding means consistently reviewing the basic terms and concepts. Review tools for these, especially the Unit Plans which can be found on my website at: <https://sites.google.com/scusd.edu/economicswithwilliams/home>
- The homework will largely consist of reading the assigned chapters of the textbook, and preparation for the projects/presentations, quizzes and other assessments throughout the semester.
- Some projects are group projects, so please be ready to work as part of a diverse team.
- I do not expect or want memorization for presentations; students instead 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 inform the rest of the class on the issue they were assigned. Use brief speaker outlines of 3-4 main points.
- Quizzes will happen once a week and fall typically on Fridays.
- The chapter notes and the chapter slides can serve as resources. Please use them, and use them consistently.
- If you miss a quiz you can turn in a complete Vocabulary Template to exempt you from the quiz score.
- Quizzes will involve multiple choice, short answer and essays.
- You will score each of your quizzes, and the one you score highest will be graded as your unit assessment for that unit.
- If you miss each of the unit quizzes then we will need to work out a time that works for us both.
- Late work will not be accepted without a completed Late/Incomplete form attached. You get 3/semester.
- Please check your student email each evening. I also send messages through Remind frequently.
- 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 Economics (i.e., mental health concerns, unique experiences, etc.) or if you just have some questions.

I have read, understood, and will abide by all of the provisions of the entire Economics syllabus.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Printed Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Please complete this and bring it back signed by no later than **Wednesday, September 8th** to ensure you have read and fully understand the Class Syllabus.

