

# AP MACROECONOMICS

## *Course Information Guide*

**Course Description:** This course is a college-level course designed to cover the macroeconomic concepts connected to the economy as a whole. These concepts include the measuring national economic performance, aggregate supply and aggregate demand, fiscal and monetary policy, international economics, and economic policy. The course will also apply these concepts in actual current events and issues by analyzing these events and issues using the economic principles learned in the class. Students will be expected to come out of the course with an understanding of the key theories and working principles that shape the American economic system today and economic policy. They will also be prepared to successfully take the Advanced Placement Macroeconomics test in the Spring. This will be accomplished through discussion, debate, simulations, role-plays and student inquiry. Students are expected to take an active role in the class through keeping up on daily assignments, participating in class discussions and providing input on the course and issues studied.

### Materials

- Textbooks – Ray and Anderson, Krugman’s Economics for AP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Worth Publishing, 2015. Krugman and Krugman, Economics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Worth Publishing, 2009.
- Handouts – Various sources including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and The Washington Post articles, among others.
- Homework and in-class problems – Economics: Instructor’s Manual, (McConnell and Brue), and Advanced Placement Economics (Morton and Goodman, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., NCEE 2003).
- supplemental materials - [www.reffonomics.com/textbook/microeconomics](http://www.reffonomics.com/textbook/microeconomics) and [acdcecon.com](http://acdcecon.com) – supplemental graphs, explanations, and practice problems
- Videos – “Economics USA”, “Commanding Heights”, “IOUSA”
- Website – [kraftclasses.weebly.com](http://kraftclasses.weebly.com)

### Requirements:

#### Logistics:

- This is a college-level course with college-level expectations. Therefore, students should enroll in the course only after careful consideration and be prepared to commit the required time and effort to the course once this commitment has been made.
- Daily work is a key to this course. Economic principles by nature build on each other. Therefore, neglecting one daily assignment not only hurts your ability to understand for that day but also impairs your ability to understand future concepts. Since this is a college-level course, and will be run as such, there is no "busy work" and all work assigned should be given the attention a course of this nature merits.
- You will be given homework assignments, which will be graded on honest effort. These assignments vary in difficulty. Some will require you to use your text to figure out the problems. They may also require you to go beyond the obvious. It is key to work through the problems and find answers.
  - Homework assignments are all due at the beginning of the class on the day for which they are due. Late work will not be accepted. If you need an extension for any assignment, this must be obtained prior to the day that the assignment is due. Since you will be given a list of assignments in advance, all tests and assignments will still be taken or due on the day in the schedule even if you have been absent. It is your responsibility to make up the work. If extenuating circumstances arise, please see me as early as possible.

### Grading Policy:

•Each student's grade will be determined by the percentage of the cumulative total points possible that he or she has earned. The grading scale is as follows:

90-100% = A    80-89.9% = B    70-79.9% = C    60-70.9% = D    < 60% = F

•There will be approximately 1000 points possible for the semester. These will include:

5 tests - 500 points (100 points each)

*Each test will consist of a multiple choice section (approximately 50 points) and a written section (approximately 50 points) which will contain graphs, short explanations, and applications of the concepts being studied.*

Quizzes - 100 points total

*There will be multiple unannounced quizzes on various topics. These unannounced quizzes will be questions taken from previous AP tests.*

In-class grade - 200 points

*This is based on your article review/presentation (30 points), your debate (50 points), your presentation (30 points), in class assignments (40 points) and your contributions to the class (50 points).*

Final exam - 200 points.

*Junior Option – Juniors will have the option after the AP test to write a research paper addressing a current economic problem or situation. They will need to define the problem including the macroeconomic causes, identify potential policy solutions, and evaluate both the positives and negatives of each solution. This paper will need appropriate references, graphs, and statistical information. These will be worth 100 points.*

Grades will not be curved so it is possible for all students to earn an "A" (however, the flip side of that is also true!).