

## AP ECONOMICS and AP GOVERNMENT

### Course Description and Contract

Mr. Whitwam

[twhitwam@aptoshs.net](mailto:twhitwam@aptoshs.net)

#### Course Description – AP Economics

AP Economics is a one semester college level course designed to give students an introductory look at macroeconomics. In this course students will build economics models to analyze the workings of the aggregate economy. The models will be used to examine the determination of a country's income, employment level, and price level. The models will also be used to show how tools which the government might use (such as taxes, spending, and controlling the money supply) can affect reaching economic goals (such as economic growth, high employment, and stable prices). What you learn in this course will help you to make more informed decisions in your roles as voters, consumers, workers, and citizens.

#### Textbook

McConnell and Brue. *Economics: Principles, Problems, and Policies* 15<sup>th</sup> ed.

#### Course Description – AP Government

This course, for high achieving college-bound students, analyzes the development and operation of American political institutions, focusing on the constitutional powers of the Congress, President, and Supreme Court; California state and local governments; and the dynamics of the American system of political parties. Topics include the changing balance of power between the executive and legislative branches, the expansion of the national government in the twentieth century, the changing character of the party system, and insights into current issues of American Politics. Students will prepare for the AP Exam and could receive college credit. This is a one-semester course.

#### Textbooks

Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath and Co., 1992).

Woll, Peter, ed. *American Government: Readings and Cases*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Glenview, IL: Scott Foresman/Harper Collins, 1990).

Since this is an AP course I expect **all** students to go beyond the basics. It is crucial not only to recall the information but also to analyze the information, comprehend the situations, and apply the facts to the appropriate graphs, charts, and examples. In order to be successful you will need to complete all the reading assignments, chapter outlines, and graphing worksheets. Your hard work now will result in payoffs later. Remember it is all about opportunity costs! There will be homework assigned each day lasting upwards of one-hour. You must do the work in order to ensure success.

Studying is key. Asking questions is key. Finding a study partner(s) is key. Coming in for help is key. My duties as teacher will be to explain the information and concepts, simplify and organize learning, and evaluate your learning. Your responsibilities as students are to read (study) the assignments, learn information and concepts, and think about applications and connections. If we both hold up our end of this "bargain" then all students should be successful.

- All students are **required** to take the AP test in May
- Students will receive their weighted grade/GPA in the course after they have taken their AP test in May.

---

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Studies Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Semester Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Studies Teacher's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am making a serious commitment to take a college-level course that will challenge my intellect and time-management skills. I agree to: complete the summer reading assignment, arrive to class on time, have consistent attendance, complete homework and assignments, work to my potential, attend the Saturday "run through exam," and take the AP exam in May.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

---