

## Economics Honors

Dr. Fontaine - Spring 2008 - mfontaine@hnhsoakland.org

**Course Description:** This one-semester survey course is designed to introduce students to the world of economics and to answer the question, “How do individual consumers, businesses, and the U.S. government make choices and decisions about what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce in our nation and global society?” This introduction will require students to define and apply basic economic concepts, develop skills of economic reasoning, and use those concepts and skills for understanding and analyzing the basic characteristics of the U.S. economic system and the U.S. government’s involvement in the economy and world.

This course has a mix of readings, lectures, activities, and structured discussions & debates that Spotlight specific economic topics like unemployment, the oil crisis, mortgage and housing crisis, impending recession, and economic issues of importance to the 2008 presidential campaign. These activities are designed to engage current economic issues and develop higher level economic reasoning skills and will require individual research, group leadership, and analytical writing. In addition, the senior research project will include several assignments all leading to a 5-6 page analytical research paper. This project and paper will be conducted in conjunction with the English Department.

### Expected Schoolwide Learning Results

#### A Holy Names High School Graduate is a woman of faith

Your analysis of economic issues will give you the opportunity to develop and apply your own ethical and moral values.

#### A Holy Names High School Graduate is intellectually competent

You will think critically and independently about complicated issues in our economy through all aspects of this course. In addition, you will also become more fluent in the use of different types of print and online sources to research these issues. The Senior Research Paper will provide most of these opportunities. The expository writing demanded in this course will allow you to further develop your writing skills, with a focus on supporting more original arguments with greater amounts of evidence. Informed and active classroom discussion will develop your ability to express arguments orally. Finally, this class requires lots of cooperative work and you will develop your ability to collaborate with others on a variety of tasks, including simulations with the entire class and leading class discussions.

#### A Holy Names High School Graduate is committed to personal growth

This class will help you demonstrate academic integrity and honesty when you do your work, even if you are collaborating with others. In addition, your study of the American economy will show how different groups are potentially disadvantaged through the laws and practices that shape that economy. This aspect of the course should deepen your respect for human diversity and the dignity of all human beings, which is at the foundation of our American ideals.

#### A Holy Names High School Graduate is artistically enriched

You will be given the opportunity to express your knowledge in such artistic forms as skits, economic cartoons, and posters.

#### A Holy Names High School Graduate serves others

Your study of Economics will increase your awareness of the struggles of the poor and disadvantaged, and broaden your understanding of social justice.

## Course Outline:

- Unit 1: Basic Concepts of Economics
  - Concepts, Economic systems, and Business Organizations
  - Paper Reduction Act
  - Stock Market Project
- Unit 2: Microeconomics
  - Demand, Supply, Prices, and Market Competition
  - Creating Demand for Pharmaceuticals and Oil Supply Crisis
  - Supply & Demand Poster Project
- Unit 3: Macroeconomics
  - The Labor Market and Unemployment
  - Government Taxes, Spending
  - Money and Financial Institutions
  - Economic Performance & Stability & Instability
- Unit 4: Global Economy
  - Comparative Advantage
  - Economic Growth in Mexico, Africa, and Asia
- Unit 5: Personal Finance
  - Creating a Monthly Budget
  - Income and Credit
  - Dreams and Reality
  - Preparing for College

## Required Text & Materials:

- Clayton, Gary, *Economics: Principles and Practices*
- Notebooks or binder with section dedicated to this class
- Pencils and blue or black pens
- Binder or folder for handouts etc.

## Types of Assessment:

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|--|-----|
| ➤ Papers & Quizzes                           | 30% |
| ➤ Projects, including NSB & Research & Paper | 30% |
| ➤ Spotlight Activities & Discussion          | 20% |
| ➤ Individual & Group Class Work & Notes      | 20% |

## Semester Grade:

- |                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| ➤ Quarters 1 & 2 | 85% |
| ➤ Final Exam     | 15% |

**Academic Standards:** Students are expected to complete all assignments throughout the semester. Check my web pages for assignment information. All written work, including homework, must follow the school's "Format for Written Work" or full credit will not be given. All homework, projects, presentations and papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. If for some reason assigned work is late, it will be marked down one full grade each day late. Papers and projects will not be accepted if they are more than two days late. Research project assignments will not be accepted if late. In the event of an absence, a student is responsible for arranging with me to make up ALL WORK as soon as she returns to school. Exceptions will only be made for dire circumstances. Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated by me nor by HNHS. Please see Student handbook for school policy on academic integrity.

**Behavioral Standards:** Students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate for an educational learning environment. When the bell rings, students are to be in their seat with pen, notebook, and book, ready to go. Students will demonstrate respect for their peers by listening to and respectfully considering other opinions. I have zero tolerance for talking when I am teaching. If I am teaching, I expect you to be taking notes and listening quietly. If we are having a discussion, only one recognized person at a time speaks. Group work requires talking quietly so that all groups can work productively. Distracting behavior like side conversations, sleeping, beauty maintenance, and homework for other classes will not be tolerated. Students are expected to follow regular school rules like no iPods, cell phones, or food, and treating school property and class environment respectfully. Drinking water from a clear plastic bottle is allowed. If you need to leave the classroom for any reason, wait for my approval, then sign out in the blue book and take a pass. Any student who chooses not to follow any of these behavioral standards will receive one verbal warning the first time. Three such warnings per grading period will earn you a citizenship grade of “N.” Two more warnings will result in you receiving a citizenship grade of “U.”

### Contact Information

If you have any questions please feel free to set up a time to meet with me. You may also contact me via email [mfontaine@hnhsoakland.org](mailto:mfontaine@hnhsoakland.org) or voicemail (510) 450-1110 ex 240. I am more than happy to discuss any aspect of the course with you.

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## Signature Sheet

Please return to Dr. Fontaine on Thursday, January 24, 2008

Your name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature acknowledges that you have read the course expectations and understand the procedures set by the teacher. You accept full responsibility to meet the rules and regulations set by the teacher.