

AP Macroeconomics Syllabus: 2023 - 2024

Course Description

This course is a one-semester introduction to college-level macroeconomics. Students will learn the fundamental principles of economics and modeling before analyzing the workings of the economy: aggregate national income and output, government spending and taxation, money, banking, monetary policy, and international trade. In addition to complementing the government course required for graduation in Texas, AP Macroeconomics deepens student comprehension of contemporary international events. It equips students with the analytical skills to optimize the decisions they make as consumers and citizens.

The textbook for AP Macroeconomics is *Krugman's Economics for AP, Fourth Edition* by Margaret Ray and David Anderson. Reading assignments often precede class coverage of the concept. Students will find the textbook at the PISD Webdesk. Understanding economics requires analyzing technical writing about relationships between variables. When students read they should refer to the charts, tables, and graphs embedded in the text. Selected textbook activities complement the reading and provide students with the conceptual foundation and linguistic scaffolding required to explore abstract ideas. Textbook assignments also build the reading stamina necessary for College Board exams.

Processing

Students will work synchronously in the exploration of ideas and the development of skills. Students will work alone or together on activities that apply models, solve problems, and reveal conceptual relationships. Students will add to the value of their college-level economics course by following thoughtful and original news sources, such as *The Economist*, NPR's *Marketplace*, and *The New York Times*.

Performance

Students will complete exercises and take timed quizzes to build the skills necessary to succeed on the free-response questions on the AP exam. Students will also take unit exams that have been keyed to the unit objectives listed on the back of the unit calendars. Tests count 60% and all other work counts 40% in the assessment of student performance. Quizzed and tested skills include identification, application, analysis, graphing, and calculation.

Perspective

Since today's citizens must manage vast quantities of information and today's workers must continually acquire new skills, students are encouraged to reflect on what they learn and how they learn it. Each week the instructor will go over the previous week's timed quiz. Students will also use their unit objectives to complete a meta-analysis (thinking about thinking) review for each unit exam.

Policies and Procedures

1. **Grading Criteria:** Students will take a free-response timed quiz almost every week. At the end of each unit, students will take a multiple-choice unit exam. The two formats simulate the modes of evaluation used on the AP Macroeconomics Exam.
 - a. **Major Grades:** the average of three unit test grades each grading period accounts for 60% of each grading period average
 - b. **Daily Grades:** the average of the grades from timed quizzes, test reflections, assignments, study guide checks, etc. account for 40% of each grading period average
2. **Absences:** Students are responsible for notes and assignments missed because of absences (excused or unexcused).
 - a. **Students who miss a timed quiz or a test should plan to make it up the following Thursday.** The student will take an alternate/makeup version of the original assessment.
 - b. Grades are zeroes until they are completed. If a second Thursday passes without the quiz or test being completed, the grade becomes a permanent "0" in the grade book.
 - c. In the event of an extended absence, alternate arrangements can be made for work completion.
 - d. **It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher and Student Center administration regarding absences.**
3. In addition to tests and quizzes, students will be expected to complete assignments in both digital and hard-copy formats. Late work will not be accepted.
4. **Tardies:** Please arrive on time for class each day.
5. **Supplies:** Students should procure the following supplies: a pen, pencil, pad of yellow letter-sized paper, a laptop computer, and a non-programmable calculator. You may want to bring earbuds. Students are expected to have a laptop computer in class every day. Students may not substitute a cell phone for a laptop computer.
6. **Calendars:** Ms. Verdugo will issue a tentative unit calendar for each unit. She will strive to follow that calendar for assignments, quizzes, and tests. Students should follow that calendar unless Ms. Verdugo gives other instructions.
7. **No Cellphones:** In an effort to encourage focus and minimize distractions, students should turn their personal electronic devices (cell phones, etc.) off when entering class. Students are not allowed to use a personal electronic device during class unless explicitly authorized by Ms. Verdugo. Unauthorized communication during an assignment or test will be regarded as cheating.
8. **Tutoring:** Tutoring will be offered on Tuesdays during zero hour, lunch and 7th period. Please notify Ms. Verdugo in advance if you are coming to tutoring.