Economics Essentials

Course Overview and Syllabus



Prerequisite courses: none Grade level: 9-12

Course Description

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of both microeconomic and macroeconomic principles while exploring the complexities of national and global economic systems. Students will investigate the roles of supply, demand, and market structures, as well as examine the factors that influence inflation, unemployment, and the business cycle. The course also delves into international trade, globalization, and the economic challenges faced by developing and developed nations. Through engaging lessons and real-world applications, students will develop the analytical skills necessary to evaluate economic issues, make informed decisions, and understand the global economy's interconnectedness.

This course is part of the Exceptional Students Course Suite, designed for high school students working three or more grade levels behind. The Exceptional Students courses are ideal for students whose IEPs allow them to earn credit for below-grade-level coursework.

Course Objectives

Students will meet the following goals in this course.

- Understand and apply key microeconomic principles, including supply and demand, opportunity cost, and market structures.
- Analyze macroeconomic concepts such as the business cycle, inflation, banking, and fiscal policy.
- Evaluate the role of the U.S. economy in promoting competition and driving innovation.
- Examine international trade, comparative and absolute advantage, and the effects of globalization on economies and consumers.
- Explore the economic challenges and developmental trends in both developed and developing nations.
- Develop critical thinking and decision-making skills by interpreting economic data, analyzing case studies, and applying concepts to real-world scenarios.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from students as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- interactive lessons, which include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks.
- assignments, in which they apply and extend learning in each lesson.
- assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams.

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Communication

Teachers will communicate with students regularly through discussions, emails, chats, and system announcements. Students will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, to collaborate, ask and answer questions in peer groups, and develop speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

Students will be graded on work completed online and work submitted electronically to the teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	20%
Lesson quizzes	30%
Unit tests	30%
Cumulative exams	20%

Scope and Sequence

When students log on to Imagine Edgenuity, they can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics under study. The units of study are listed below

Course Units
Unit 1: Introduction to Economics
Unit 2: Economic Systems
Unit 3: Microeconomics
Unit 4: Macroeconomics
Unit 5: The US and Global Economics