

Economics, Form IV (first semester)

Course Description

This course is taught in conjunction with the Junior Achievement Applied Economics program, and is designed as an introductory survey course in Economics. It incorporates both Macro and Micro elements, as well as presenting an historical survey of the development of modern economic thought. The course also includes the cooperation of a JA arranged business consultant who meets weekly with the students to provide real-world insights to the material. Stock market and business simulations are also typically incorporated into the class as well.

Course Goals

- To provide the students with a historical perspective on the development of economic thought in the modern world
- To introduce the students to the philosophical underpinnings of major world economic systems
- To describe the basic characteristics of the American economic system with emphasis on the roles of private property, the price system and competition
- To demonstrate how fundamental economic concepts such as markets, economic incentives, and opportunity cost operate in the American and other economic systems
- To develop an understanding of the economic principles that influence business decisions
- To describe the economic roles that governments play in a market economy, and specifically, the American economy
- To help students understand the need for ethical standards in business leaders, producers and consumers
- To foster appropriate life, study and decision-making skills
- To enable students to explore career opportunities, consumer issues, and other aspects of personal economics
- To provide students the opportunity to interact with members of the business community

World Issues, Form IV (second semester)

Course Description

This course typically consists of two, one quarter long “mini-courses,” focusing on major areas of world interest. In the past these have included courses on the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, or the fall of the apartheid system in South Africa. A consistent element, however, has been a review of Middle Eastern affairs, as this area has consistently been a major focus of world unrest. Since the events of September 11, 2001, this has, in fact, become the central focus of the World Issues course.

This course presents students with a survey of the major political, social and religious development in Middle Eastern history since the end of WWI, as well as selected necessary ancient and medieval background to these events. Emphasis is placed on Arab-Israeli conflicts, inter-Arab relations, and relations between Middle Eastern entities and the world at large, with special emphasis on current U.S. involvement in the area.

This can, however, be amended to reflect the needs of the day should there be a change in current world affairs. In all cases the courses should be designed to provide in depth historical background to the major social and political issues facing the world at the time, and not merely a surface view of current events.

Course Goals

- The factual events of modern Middle Eastern history that have contributed to the development of the current social and political status quo
- The current extant political and social situation in the Middle East
- The major attitudinal differences that have shaped past events and current situations in the area
- The ways in which Middle Eastern affairs have affected and continue to affect greater global affairs
- An understanding of the impact of past events on the present and future
- The cause and effect relationships that link different generations, eras and regions