

ECONOMICS

FAQs about the Classroom and the Course

Welcome to Economics! This one-semester class is a high school graduation requirement and is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts of economic thinking and decision-making. This is not a personal finance class. One definition of economics that describes this course is "the science which studies human behavior as a relationship between ends and scarce means which have alternative uses." In other words, economics is a social science that describes how goods and services are produced, distributed, and consumed, and which also attempts to create models of past economic behavior in order to predict future economic conditions.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Is there a required textbook for this class?

Yes, there is. You need to check out a copy from the bookroom. You will have weekly reading assignments and homework from the textbook.

2. Where do I find the weekly reading assignments and homework?

All of the reading assignments and homework questions are included with this syllabus. Additional homework will be posted each week in class. Remember, there may be unforeseen changes, so always check the board in the classroom for any unexpected revisions.

3. What supplies are needed for class?

You will need to have a notebook to keep handouts in, notebook paper for work done in class, and something to write with. On test days, you will need a pencil.

4. What about "class rules"?

All of the VVHS policies are enforced in the classroom. This means no eating or drinking in class, no cell phone use, and no use of any other electronic device. Anything confiscated will be taken to the Academy office at the end of the day for pick-up. Nothing will be returned to students.

5. What about absences and tardies?

Once again, school policy will be enforced. When there are more than two unexcused absences, there will be a home contact. It is the student's responsibility to ask for absence make-up work and to return it within one week of returning to school. After that, assignments or tests missed due to absence will be recorded as a zero.

6. How will the class be graded?

The class grade will be based on five components, and 60% or 600 points is the minimum required to pass. Each of these components is explained in detail on the next page.

Daily Assignments	30% (300 pts)
Homework assignments	20% (200 pts)
Chapter Tests	20% (200 pts)
Senior Project	20% (200 pts)
Final Exam	10% (100 pts)

Resubmission of homework that is submitted on time and test retakes to raise a low grade to as much as a 75% are permitted, but this must be done before the next homework assignment is due and before the next test is administered.

What about late work?

If you are absent, you may turn work in according to APS policy, one day late for each day absent with no penalty. Homework or in-class activities that are turned in late will receive a maximum grade of 50%. Exams missed due to absence or because homework was not complete must be made up before the next exam is administered. Make-up times are before school on Monday and Wednesday and at lunch on Tuesday and Thursday.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS: 30% Of The Grade

Each day when class begins there will be a reading and writing assignment related to the topics we are covering in class. You will have about 15 minutes to complete this “bellwork”. This activity is designed to improve content-based reading skills with a variety of source materials, build economics vocabulary, review effective note-taking, and prepare for the day’s classroom learning. If you are tardy or absent, you must still complete the work you missed or an alternative assignment in order to receive credit. You will not be “excused” from completing these assignments because you arrive late or are absent. Each day’s classroom activities are designed to promote learning of the basic concepts of economics. Some of these activities are done in groups and some are done individually. At times we will do whole class simulations. There will be a variety of activities presented. Not all of them can be duplicated at home, so if you are absent you may be given an alternative assignment that covers the same material and has the same point value.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: 20% Of The Grade

Homework assignments focus on the textbook. For each assignment, read the assigned chapter and then answer the questions for that reading in R.A.C.E. format. **(The questions for each assigned chapter are included at the end of this syllabus).** Using R.A.C.E. format standardizes the answers and makes them a valuable study tool when reviewing for exams.

R.A.C.E. format requires that you:

- R** Restate the question. Do not copy the question, restate it as the introduction to the answer.
- A** Answer the question. Be sure your answer addressed all parts of the question and is a complete response. This may require multiple sentences in some cases.
- C** Cite a minimum of THREE examples to support your answer. The text may provide some examples, but you will need to provide others of your own.
- E** Expand your answer through application or prediction. This allows you to comment on the importance of the topic or what the future may hold.

If you are unsure how to use the R.A.C.E. format, please be sure to ask for assistance. Since this format is widely used at VVHS, most of you should be very familiar with it. Homework that is submitted on time can be resubmitted to raise the grade to a maximum of 75%. The homework must be resubmitted within one week of learning the original grade. In addition, there will be an assignment specific to each chapter’s vocabulary and content that will due with the RACE questions on the day each exam is given. This homework will be posted in class at the beginning of each unit. **Homework must be completed before the exam for the unit can be taken. If you come to class on exam day without your homework, you will work on homework during the class period and make-up the exam on your own time.**

CHAPTER TESTS AND FINAL EXAM: 30% Of The Grade

Unit tests and the final exam will focus on reading assignments, homework, vocabulary and classroom activities. If you do not do well on the exam, you may retake a different test that covers the same material in order to raise your grade to a maximum of 75%. The retake must be completed before the next scheduled exam is administered in class. The Final Exam, will be 10% of the grade. The same tests and the same final exam are given by all Economics teachers at VVHS.

SENIOR PROJECT: 20% Of The Grade (In all Economics classes at VVHS)
You will receive a separate packet with information on the Senior Project requirements.