

**West Linn–Wilsonville School District**  
**Social Studies Department – Course Statement**

**Course Title: Advanced Placement (AP) Economics**

**Length of Course:** Year  
**Number of Credits:** 2  
**Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12  
**Prerequisites:** Advanced Algebra, Instructor Approval  
**CIM Work Samples**  
**Offered in Course:** Math problem-solving work sample

**Date of Description/Revision:** March 2005

**Course Overview**

Economics is the study of how individuals and societies deal with the fact that wants are always greater than the limited resources available to satisfy those wants. The twin themes of scarcity and efficiency are represented in nearly all facets of the course. This course will closely follow the outline for the Advanced Placement (AP) Microeconomics Exam. Students will be required to do a significant amount of college-level reading and analysis of real life situations using the tools of economic thought. Students should also expect a fair amount of lecture balanced with class discussion and student presentations.

**Essential Questions**

**Concepts providing focus for student learning**

- How do individuals and societies deal with unlimited wants and scarce resources?
- What is the role of efficiency in Economics?
- How are markets organized?
- What is the role of government in the economy?

**Proficiency Statements**

- Upon completion of course, students will be able to:
- Apply marginal analysis to find efficient levels of output and consumption.
  - Analyze economic situations using basic economics concepts, such as opportunity cost, scarcity, and competition.
  - Use graphical analysis to display economic relationships.
  - Apply the models of market organization to businesses in the community and region.
  - Explain the role of government in a mixed economy.
  - Create graphs to model the economic behavior of individuals, firms, and societies.
  - Explain the difference between causation and correlation, and how they relate to the composition fallacy and ceteris paribus.
  - Determine the optimum short-run and long-run strategy for a firm.

**West Linn–Wilsonville School District**  
**Social Studies Department – Course Statement**

**General Course Topics/Units  
& Timeframes**

Semester 1

- A. Basic Economic Concepts: Efficiency, Opportunity Cost, and Graphical Analysis
  - Fundamental Economic Principles
  - Markets and Government
  - Basic Supply and Demand
- B. Microeconomics: Supply, Demand, and Product Markets
  - Demand and Consumer Behavior
  - Production
  - Cost Analysis
  - Market Structures
- C. Factor Markets: Land, Labor, and Capital
  - Income Determination
  - Labor Markets
  - Land and Capital

Semester 2

- D. Applied Microeconomics:
  - Comparative Advantage and International Trade
  - Environmental Protection and Externalities
- E. Macroeconomics:
  - Basic Overview
  - Measuring Economic Output
  - Consumption and Investment
  - Business Cycles
- F. Growth, Development, and the Global Economy
  - Process of Growth
  - Exchange Rates
- G. Review for the AP Microeconomics Test

**Resources**

- Text: *Economics, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Roger A. Arnold, South-Western College Publishing, 2005