

# AP MICROECONOMICS

Fall Semester 2013-14

Cherry Creek High School

Mr. Michael Kraft  
Off Periods: 1, 2 and 5  
Office: 112A East Bldg.  
720-554-2514  
www.kraftclasses.weebly.com

**Course Description:** This course is a college-level course designed to cover the microeconomic concepts of supply and demand, the workings of a firm, factors of production, efficiency, and the role of the government in our economy. The course will also apply these concepts in actual current events and issues by analyzing these events and issues using the economic principles learned in the class (e.g. pollution, taxes, health care, and international trade). Students will be expected to come out of the course with an understanding of the key theories and working principles that shape American economic decision-making today. They will also be prepared to successfully take the Advanced Placement Microeconomics test in the spring. This will be accomplished through discussion, debate, simulations, role-plays and student inquiry. Students are expected to take an active role in the class through keeping up on daily assignments, participating in class discussions, taking notes, and providing input on the course and issues studied.

## Materials

Textbook – Krugman and Wells, *Economics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Worth Publishing, 2009.

McConnell and Brue, *Economics*, 17<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw Hill, 2008.

Website – Reffonomics.com

Photocopies and handouts from various sources including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Naked Economics*, and *Freakonomics* will also be used.

Videos – Economics USA, Commanding Heights

## Requirements:

### Logistics:

- This is a college-level course with college-level expectations. Therefore, students should enroll in the course only after careful consideration and be prepared to commit the required time and effort to the course once this commitment has been made.
- Daily work is a key to this course. Economic principles by nature build on each other. Therefore, neglecting one daily assignment not only hurts your ability to understand for that day but also impairs your ability to understand future concepts. Since this is a college-level course, and will be run as such, there is no "busy work" and all work assigned should be given the attention a course of this nature merits.
- You will be given homework assignments, some of which will be graded. These assignments vary in difficulty. Some will require you to use your text to figure out the problems. They may also require you to go beyond the obvious. It is key to work through the problems and find answers.
- Homework assignments are all due at the beginning of the class on the day for which they are due. Late work will not be accepted. If you need an extension for any assignment, this must be obtained prior to the day that the assignment is due. Since you will be given a list of assignments in advance, all tests and assignments will still be taken or due on the day in the schedule even if you have been absent. It is your responsibility to make up the work. If extenuating circumstances arise, please see me as early as possible.

Grading Policy:

- There will be approximately 1000 points possible for the semester. These will include 4 tests (100 points each), quizzes (130 points total), a homework grade (150 points), an in-class grade (120 points – including article, debate, in-class activities), and a final exam (200 points). Grades will not be curved so it is possible for all students to earn an "A" (however, the flip side of that is also true!).
- As stated in the Social Studies Department plagiarism policy, cheating on any assignment or examination will result in a zero for that assignment.

**Miscellaneous:** If students have any questions or concerns regarding these requirements or anything else regarding the course throughout the semester, please come and see me. I would be interested in both positive and constructive comments on how the class could be improved and I welcome your input. The excitement and interest of the class will depend on how much students are willing to try new things and actively engage themselves in the material.

\*\*\*Please take these requirements home and share them with your parents. I would like them to be involved in your education and to contact me if they have any questions or concerns regarding this course.