

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLANNED INSTRUCTION**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title:** Economics

**Course Number:** 00116

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with the background needed to help perform their economic roles more intelligently as they become consumers, producers, and decision-makers. This course emphasizes fundamentals, macroeconomics, and international economics. The organization and instruction of the course is geared toward those students looking to pursue post-secondary education and also for those who are interested in a more comprehensive study of Economics.

**Suggested Grade Level:** 12

**Length of Course:** X One Semester        Two Semesters        Other

The class will meet 5 days a week for 42 minutes each day.

**Units of Credit:** 0.5 (Insert NONE if appropriate.)

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certification(s)**

(Insert certificate title and CSPG#) Social Studies

**Certification verified by WCSD Human Resources Department:**

X Yes        No

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, Materials:**

**Title:**

**Publisher:**

**ISBN #:**

**Copyright Date:**

**Date of WCSD Board Approval:**

**BOARD APPROVAL:**

**Date Written:** June 2010

**Date Approved:**                                 

**Implementation Year:** 2011-2012

**Suggested Supplemental Materials:**

This course includes a stock market simulation that requires access to internet-linked computers at least once a week.

**Course Standards**

**PA Academic Standards:** (List by Number and Description)

## **6.1**

### **Economic Systems**

- A. Similarities and Differences in Economic Systems
- B. Traditional, Command and Market Economics
- C. Measures of Economic Activity
- D. Expansion, Recession and Depression in the Economy

## **6.2**

### **Markets and the Functions of Governments**

- A. Market Transactions
- B. Costs and Benefits of Competition
- C. Function of Money
- D. Economic Institutions
- E. Changes in Supply and Demand
- F. Forces that Can Change Price
- G. Sources of Tax Revenue
- H. Economic Roles for Governments
- I. Public Goods
- J. Costs and Benefits of Taxation
- K. Impact of Media on the Cost and Benefits of Decisions
- L. Exchange Rates

## **6.3**

### **Scarcity and Choice**

- A. Scarcity and Limited Resources
- B. Economic Reasoning of Choices
- C. Allocation of Resources
- D. Marginal Analysis and Decision-making
- E. Opportunity Cost
- F. Incentives

## **6.4**

### **Economic Interdependence**

- A. Specialization
- B. Trade
- C. Implementation or Reduction of Trade Barriers
- D. Pennsylvania Economic Patterns
- E. Global Production and Consumption of Goods or Services
- F. Comparative Advantage
- G. Geographic Patterns of Economic Activities

## **6.5**

### **Work and Earnings**

- A. Factors Influencing Wages
- B. Labor Productivity
- C. Types of Businesses
- D. Profits and Losses
- E. Distribution of Wealth
- F. Entrepreneurship
- G. Costs and Benefits of Saving
- H. Impact of Interest Rates

**WCSD Academic Standards:** (List or None)

None

**Industry or Other Standards:** (List, Identify Source or None)

None

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION AND GIFTED REQUIREMENTS**

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

### **SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES/CORRESPONDING STANDARDS AND ELIGIBLE CONTENT WHERE APPLICABLE**

(List Objectives, PA Standards #'s, Other Standards (see samples at end))

#### **PA Standard: 6.1 Economic Systems**

X – performance assessed during that semester

|    | <b>Performance Indicators</b>                       | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Assessment</b> |
|----|---|----------|----------|-------------------|
| A. | Similarities and differences in Economic Systems    | x        | x        |                   |
| B. | Traditional, Command, and Market Economics          | x        | x        |                   |
| C. | Measures of Economic Activity                       | x        | x        |                   |
| D. | Expansion, Recession, and Depression in the Economy | x        | x        |                   |

#### **PA Standard: 6.2 Markets and the Functions of Governments**

X – performance assessed during that semester

|    | <b>Performance Indicators</b>                         | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Assessment</b> |
|----|---|----------|----------|-------------------|
| A. | Market Transactions                                   | x        | x        |                   |
| B. | Costs and Benefits of Competition                     | x        | x        |                   |
| C. | Function of Money                                     | x        | x        |                   |
| D. | Economic Institutions                                 | x        | x        |                   |
| E. | Changes in Supply and Demand                          | x        | x        |                   |
| F. | Forces that Can Change Price                          | x        | x        |                   |
| G. | Sources of Tax Revenue                                | x        | x        |                   |
| H. | Economic Roles for Governments                        | x        | x        |                   |
| I. | Public Goods  | x        | x        |                   |
| J. | Costs and Benefits of Taxation                        | x        | x        |                   |
| K. | Impact of Media on the Cost and Benefits of Decisions | x        | x        |                   |
| L. | Exchange Rates  | x        | x        |                   |

#### **PA Standard: 6.3 Scarcity and Choice**

X – performance assessed during that semester

|    | <b>Performance Indicators</b>         | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Assessment</b> |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| A. | Scarcity and Limited Resources        | x        | x        |                   |
| B. | Economic Reasoning of Choices         | x        | x        |                   |
| C. | Allocation of Resources               | x        | x        |                   |
| D. | Marginal Analysis and Decision-making | x        | x        |                   |
| E. | Opportunity Cost                      | x        | x        |                   |
| F. | Incentives                            | x        | x        |                   |

#### **PA Standard: 6.4 Economic Interdependence**

X – performance assessed during that semester

|    | Performance Indicators                                 | 1 | 2 | Assessment |
|----|--|---|---|------------|
| A. | Specialization   | x | x |            |
| B. | Trade  | x | x |            |
| C. | Implementation or Reduction of Trade Barriers          | x | x |            |
| D. | Pennsylvania Economic Patterns                         | x | x |            |
| E. | Global Production and Consumption of Goods or Services | x | x |            |
| F. | Comparative Advantage                                  | x | x |            |
| G. | Geographic Patterns of Economic Activities             | x | x |            |

### PA Standard: 6.5 Work and Earnings

X – performance assessed during that semester

|    | Performance Indicators       | 1 | 2 | Assessment |
|----|------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| A. | Factors Influencing Wages    | x | x |            |
| B. | Labor Productivity           | x | x |            |
| C. | Types of Businesses          | x | x |            |
| D. | Profits and Losses           | x | x |            |
| E. | Distribution of Wealth       | x | x |            |
| F. | Entrepreneurship             | x | x |            |
| G. | Costs and Benefits of Saving | x | x |            |
| H. | Impact of Interest Rates     | x | x |            |

## ASSESSMENTS

**PSSA Assessment Anchors Addressed:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Assessment Anchors and/or Eligible Content and incorporate them into this planned instruction. Current assessment anchors can be found at [pde@state.pa.us](mailto:pde@state.pa.us).

**PSSA Assessment Anchors Addressed:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Assessment Anchors and/or Eligible Content and incorporate them into this planned instruction. Current assessment anchors can be found at [pde@state.pa.us](mailto:pde@state.pa.us).

**Formative Assessments:** The teacher will develop and use standards-based assessments throughout the course.

**Portfolio Assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      X   No

**District-wide Final Examination Required:**                      X   Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Course Challenge Assessment (Describe):**

Students may successfully challenge the course by earning 84% on the final examination prior to the beginning of the course.

## REQUIRED COURSE SEQUENCE AND TIMELINE

(Content must be tied to objectives)

| Content Sequence   | Time        |
|--|-------------|
| I. Scarcity and Choice (Standards 6.3 A, 6.3 B, 6.3 C, 6.3 D, and 6.3 E)                   | (1 week)    |
| A. Scarcity and Limited Resources  |             |
| B. Economic Reasoning of Choices   |             |
| C. Allocation of Resources   |             |
| D. Opportunity Cost  |             |
| E. Marginal Analysis and Decision Making   |             |
| II. Economic Systems (Standards 6.1 A, 6.1 B, 6.2 A, and 6.5 D)                            | (1 week)    |
| A. Similarities and Differences in Economic Systems  |             |
| B. Traditional, Command, and Market Economies  |             |
| III. Business and Labor (Standards 6.5 A, 6.5 B, 6.5 C, 6.5 E, and 6.5 F)                  | (2 weeks)   |
| A. Factors Influencing Wages   |             |
| B. Labor Productivity  |             |
| C. Types of Businesses   |             |
| D. Entrepreneurship  |             |
| E. 5.. Distribution of Wealth  |             |
| IV. Supply and Demand (Standards 6.2 E and 6.2 F)  | (1 week)    |
| A. Changes In Supply and Demand  |             |
| B. Forces That Can Change Price  |             |
| V. Measuring Economic Activity (Standard 6.1 C)  | (1.5 weeks) |
| A. Gross Domestic Product  |             |
| B. Inflation and CPI   |             |
| VI. The Business Cycle (Standard 6.1 D)  | (1.5 weeks) |
| A. Expansion, Recession, and Depression in the Economy                                     |             |
| B. Economic Growth   |             |
| C. Types of Unemployment   |             |
| VII. Government Roles in the Economy (Standards 6.2 H and 6.2 I)                           | (1 week)    |
| A. Economic Roles for Governments  |             |
| B. Public Goods  |             |
| VIII. Fiscal and Monetary Policy (Standards 6.2 G and 6.2 J)                               | (2 weeks)   |
| A. Sources of Tax Revenue  |             |
| B. Costs and Benefits of Taxation  |             |
| C. Role of the Federal Reserve   |             |
| IX. Market Structures (Standards 6.3 F, 6.2 B, and 6.2 K)                                  | (1 week)    |
| A. Costs and Benefits of Competition   |             |
| B. Incentives  |             |
| C. Impact of Media on the Costs and Benefits of Decisions                                  |             |
| X. Economic Interdependence<br>(Standards 6.4 A, 6.4 B, 6.4 C, 6.4 D, 6.4 E, 6.4 F, 6.4 G) | (6 weeks)   |
| A. Specialization  |             |
| B. Trade   |             |
| C. Implementation or Reduction of Trade Barriers   |             |
| D. Pennsylvania Economic Patterns  |             |
| E. Global Production and Consumption of Goods or Services                                  |             |
| F. Comparative Advantage   |             |
| G. Geographic Patterns of Economic Activities  |             |
| H. Exchange Rates  |             |

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Why do people face-trade-offs?
2. Why do all costs equal some kind of sacrifice?

3. Why do rational people think at the margin?
4. Why do people respond to incentives in predictable ways?
5. Why does trade benefit everyone?
6. Why are markets a good way to organize economic activity?
7. How can the government improve market outcomes?

### **Objectives:**

- Explain why scarcity and choice are basic problems of economics.
- Identify land, labor, and capital as the three factors of production, and identify the two types of capital.
- Explain the role of entrepreneurs.
- Explain why economists say all resources are scarce.
- Describe why every decision involves tradeoffs.
- Explain the concept of opportunity cost.
- Explain how people make decisions by thinking at the margin.
- Interpret a production possibilities curve.
- Demonstrate how production possibilities graphs show efficiency, growth, and cost.
- Explain how a country's production possibilities depend on its available resources and technology.
- Describe the three uses of money.
- Explain the six characteristics of money.
- Explain the sources of money's value.
- Describe the shifts between centralized and decentralized banking before the Civil War.
- Explain how the banking system was stabilized in the later 1800s.
- Describe developments in banking during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Explain how the money supply in the United States is measured.
- Explain the functions of financial institutions.
- Identify different types of financial institutions.
- Describe the changes brought about by electronic banking.
- Describe how investing contributes to the free enterprise system.
- Explain how the financial system brings together savers and borrowers.
- Describe how financial intermediaries link savers and borrowers.
- Identify the tradeoffs among risk, liquidity and return.
- Describe the characteristics of bonds as financial assets.
- Identify different types of bonds.
- Describe the characteristics of other types of financial assets.
- Explain four different types of financial institutions.
- Explain the benefits and risks of buying stock.
- Describe how stocks are traded.
- Identify how stock performance is measured.
- Explain the causes and effects of the Great Crash of 1929.
- Identify the three key economic questions of what to produce, how to produce, and who consumes what is produced.
- Analyze the societal values that determine how a country answers the three economic questions.
- Explain the characteristics of traditional, command, and market economies and describe societal values that influence them.
- Explain why markets exist.
- Analyze a circular flow model of a free market economy.

- Describe the self-regulating nature of the marketplace.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of a free market economy.
- Describe how a centrally planned economy is organized.
- Analyze the centrally planned economy of the former Soviet Union. Identify the advantages and disadvantages of a centrally planned economy.
- Explain the rise of mixed economic systems.
- Interpret a circular flow model of a mixed economy.
- Compare the mixed economies of various nations along a continuum between centrally planned and free market systems.
- Explain the role of free enterprise in the economy of the United States.
- Describe the tradition of free enterprise in the United States and the constitutional protections that underlie it.
- Explain the basic principles of the U.S. free enterprise system.
- Identify the role of the consumer in the U.S. free enterprise system.
- Describe the role of the government in the U.S. free enterprise system.
- Explain how the government tracks and seeks to influence business cycles.
- Analyze how the government promotes economic strength.
- Analyze the effect of technology on productivity.
- Identify examples of public goods.
- Analyze market failures.
- Evaluate how the government allocates some resources by managing externalities.
- Summarize the U.S. political debate on ways to fight poverty.
- Describe the main programs through which the government redistributes income.
- Explain the law of demand.
- Analyze how the substitution effect and the income effect influence decisions.
- Create and explain a demand schedule for an individual and a market.
- Interpret a demand graph using demand schedules.
- Explain the difference between a change in quantity demanded and a shift in the demand curve.
- Identify the determinants that create changes in demand and that can cause a shift in the demand curve.
- Explain how the change in the price of one good can affect demand for a related good.
- Explain how to calculate elasticity of demand.
- Identify factors that affect elasticity.
- Explain how firms use elasticity and revenue to make decisions.
- Explain the law of supply.
- Interpret a supply graph using a supply schedule.
- Explain the relationship between elasticity of supply and time.
- Explain how firms decide how much labor to hire to produce a certain level of output.
- Analyze the production costs of a firm.
- Explain how a firm decides to shut down an unprofitable business.
- Identify how determinants such as input costs create changes in supply.
- Identify three ways that the government can influence the supply of a good.
- Describe how supply and demand fit into the global economy.
- Analyze factors that affect supply.
- Explain how supply and demand create balance in the marketplace.
- Compare a market in equilibrium with a market in disequilibrium.
- Identify how the government sometimes intervenes in markets to control prices.
- Analyze the effects of price ceilings and price floors.
- Identify the determinants that create changes in price.



- Explain how a market reacts to a change in supply by moving to a new equilibrium.
- Explain how a market reacts to a change in demand by moving to a new equilibrium.
- Analyze the role of prices in a free market.
- Identify the advantages of a price-based system.
- Explain how a price-based system leads to a wider choice of goods and more efficient allocation of resources.
- Describe the relationship between prices and the profit incentive.
- Describe the four conditions that are in place in a perfectly competitive market.
- Identify two common barriers that prevent firms from entering a market.
- Describe prices and output in a perfectly competitive market.
- Describe the characteristics and give examples of monopoly.
- Describe how monopolies are formed, including government monopolies.
- Explain how a firm with a monopoly sets output and price, and why companies practice price discrimination.
- Describe characteristics and give examples of monopolistic competition.
- Explain how firms compete without lowering prices.
- Explain how firms in a monopolistically competitive market set output.
- Describe characteristics and give examples of oligopoly.
- Describe how firms use market power.
- Identify three market practices that the government regulates or bans to protect competition.
- Define deregulation, and list its effects on several industries.
- Explain the characteristics of sole proprietorships.
- Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of a sole proprietorship.
- Compare and contrast the different types of partnerships.
- Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of partnerships.
- Explain the characteristics of corporations.
- Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation.
- Compare and contrast corporate combinations.
- Describe the role of multinational corporations.
- Describe how a business franchise works.
- Identify the different types of cooperative organizations.
- Explain the purpose of nonprofit organizations.
- Describe how trends in the labor force are tracked.
- Analyze past and present occupational trends.
- Summarize how the U.S. labor force is changing.
- Identify and explain trends in the wages and benefits of U.S. workers.
- Analyze the relationship between supply and demand in the labor market.
- Explain the connection between wages and skill levels.
- Explain how wages against wage discrimination affect wage levels.
- Describe other factors affecting wages, such as minimum wage and workplace safety laws.
- Describe why historically some workers have joined labor unions.
- Trace the history of the labor movement in the United States.
- Analyze the reasons for the decline of the labor movement.
- Explain how labor and management negotiate contracts.
- Identify National Income and Product Accounts.
- Explain how Gross Domestic Product is calculated.
- Explain the difference between nominal and real GDP.
- List the main limitations of GDP.
- Describe other income and output measures.
- Identify factors that influence GDP.

- Explain the effects of rising prices.
- Explain the use of price indexes to compare changes in price over time.
- Identify the causes and effects of inflation.
- Describe recent trends in the inflation rate.
- Identify the phases of the business cycle.
- Describe four key factors that keep the business cycle going.
- Explain how economists forecast fluctuations in the business cycle.
- Analyze the impact of business cycles on U.S. history.
- Analyze why U.S. business cycles may change in the future.
- Analyze how economic growth is measured.
- Analyze how saving and investment are related to economic growth.
- Summarize the impact of population growth, government, and foreign trade on economic growth.
- Identify the causes and effects of technological progress.
- Describe functional, seasonal, structural and cyclical unemployment.
- Describe how full employment is measured.
- Explain why full employment does not mean that every worker is employed.
- Describe how the government uses taxes to fund programs.
- Identify the roots of the concept of taxation in the U.S. Constitution.
- Describe types of tax bases and tax structures.
- List the characteristics of a good tax.
- Identify who bears the burden of a tax.
- Describe the process of paying individual income taxes.
- Explain the basic characteristics of corporate income taxes.
- Explain the purpose of Social Security, Medicare and unemployment taxes.
- Identify other types of taxes.
- Distinguish between mandatory and discretionary spending.
- Describe major entitlement programs.
- Identify categories of discretionary spending.
- Explain the impact of federal aid to state and local governments.
- Explain how states use a budget to plan their spending.
- Identify where state taxes are spent.
- List the major sources of state tax revenue.
- Describe local government spending and sources of revenue.
- Describe how the federal government uses fiscal policy as a tool for achieving its economic goals.
- Explain how the government creates the federal budget.
- Analyze the impact of fiscal policy decisions on the economy.
- Identify the limitations of fiscal policy.
- Compare and contrast classical economics and Keynesian economics.
- Explain the basic principles of supply-side economics.
- Describe the role that fiscal policy has played in American history.
- Evaluate the importance of balancing the budget.
- Analyze how budget deficits add to the national debt.
- Summarize the problems caused by the national debt.
- Identify how a government can reduce budget deficits and the national debt.
- Explain how the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 led to banking reform.
- Describe the structure of today's Federal Reserve system.
- Describe how the Federal Reserve serves the federal government.
- Describe how the Federal Reserve serves banks.

- Describe how the Federal Reserve regulates the banking system.
- Explain the Federal Reserve's role in regulating the nation's money supply.
- Describe the process of money creation.
- Explain how the Federal Reserve uses three basic tools to implement U.S. monetary policy.
- Explain why some monetary policy tools are favored over others.
- Explain the problems of timing and policy lags in implementing monetary policy.
- Explain how predictions about the length of a business cycle affect monetary policy.
- Describe two distinct approaches to monetary policy.
- Analyze the locations of resources and evaluate the significance of these locations.
- Explain the concepts of comparative and absolute advantage and apply the concept of comparative advantage to explain why and how countries trade.
- Analyze the impact of U.S. imports and exports on the United States and its trading partners.
- Define various types of trade barriers.
- Compare the effects of free trade and trade barriers on economic activities.
- Summarize arguments in favor of protectionism.
- Evaluate the benefits and costs of participation in international trade agreements.
- Explain the role of multinationals in the global economy.
- Analyze how changes in exchange rates of world currencies affect international trade.
- Describe the effect of various exchange rate systems.
- Analyze the effects of changes in exchange rates on the balance of trade.
- Explain what is meant by developed nations and less developed nations.
- Identify the causes and effects of rapid population growth.
- Describe the effects of unequal distribution of the factors of production.
- Analyze how political factors and debt are obstacles to development.
- Explain the role investment plays in development.
- Identify some important steps in moving from a centrally planned economy toward a free market economy.
- Identify and explain historical economic patterns in Pennsylvania.
- Describe economic patterns in Pennsylvania today.

**WRITING TEAM:** Melissa L. Becker

### WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION

1. Is there a required final examination?   X   Yes        No
2. Does this course issue a mark/grade for the report card?   X   Yes        No
3. Does this course issue a Pass/Fail mark?        Yes   X   No
4. Is the course mark/grade part of the GPA calculation?   X   Yes        No
5. Is the course eligible for Honor Roll calculation?   X   Yes        No
6. What is the academic weight of the course?  
       No weight/Non credit   X   Standard weight  
       Enhanced Weight