

**Mr. Scott Corner**  
**Economics (H)**  
**Palma High School**  
**Fall 2007**

**Course Description:** Economics is a one-semester course. In this course, students should deepen their understanding of the economic problems and institutions of the nation and world in which they live. They should learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners and managers, and members of civic groups. In this course students will add to the economic understandings they acquired in previous grades and apply tools (such as graphs, statistics, and equations) learned in other subject fields to their understanding of our economic system.

This course primarily is a course in social science, enriching students' understanding of the operations and institutions of economic systems, rather than a course in household or business management or budgeting. Throughout this course, measurement concepts and methods will be introduced; for example, tables, charts, graphs, ratios, percentages, and index numbers. Behind every graph is an equation or set of equations that specifies a relationship among economic variables. Thus, to master the economic method, students must use graphs and understand, at the appropriate level, the mathematical equations they represent.

**Text:** *Microeconomics*; McConnell Brue; McGraw Hill; 17<sup>th</sup> edition

### **Units of Instruction**

1. Summer Reading
2. Introduction to Economics and the Economy
  - Limits, Alternatives, and Choices
  - The Market System and the Circular Flow
  - Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium
  - The U.S. Economy: Private and Public Sectors
  - The United States in the Global Economy
3. Microeconomics of Product Markets
  - Extensions of Demand and Supply Analysis
  - Consumer Behavior and Utility Maximization
  - The Costs of Production
  - Pure Competition
  - Pure Monopoly
  - Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
  - Technology, R&D, and Efficiency
4. Microeconomics of Resource Markets
  - The Demand for Resources
  - Wage Determination
  - Rent, Interest, and Profit
5. Microeconomics of Government
  - Government and Market Failure
  - Public Choice Theory and the Economics of Taxation
6. Microeconomics Issues and Policies
  - Antitrust Policy and Regulation
  - Agriculture: Economics and Policy
  - Income Inequality and Poverty
  - The Economics of Health Care
  - Labor Market Institutions and Issues: Unionism, Discrimination, Immigration
7. International Economics
  1. International Trade
  2. Exchange Rates, the Balance of Payments, and Trade Deficits

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### **Student Outcomes**

1. Students understand common economic terms and concepts and economic reasoning.
2. Students analyze the elements of America's market economy in a global setting.
3. Students analyze the elements of the U.S. labor market in a global setting.
4. Students analyze issues of international trade and explain how the U.S. economy affects, and is affected by, economic forces beyond the United State's borders.
5. Students understand the Catholic Church's teaching concerning social problems such as poverty, the family, and life issues, in an economics, as well as moral context.
6. Students conduct cost-benefit analyses and apply basic economic indicators to analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the U.S. economy.
7. Students construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate, and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.
8. Students use a variety of maps and documents to interpret human movement, including major patterns of domestic and international migration, changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns, the frictions that develop between population groups, and the diffusion of ideas, technological innovations, and goods.

**Evaluation.** This course adheres to Palma's official grading criteria (Student & Parent Handbook, page 9). Economics (H) is an honors course and students enrolled in this course will be awarded extra points in grade point average computations. Semester grades will be determined and credit awarded based on the following.

	B+ (87-89)	C+ (77-79)	D+ (67-69)		
A (93-100)	B (83-86)	C (73-76)	D (63-66)		
A- (90-92)	B- (80-82)	C- (70-72)	D- (60-62)	F (below 60)	

**Grades.** The course is divided into eight (8) equally "weighted" units. Within each unit, individual assignments are "weighted" as follows:

- **Important Grades (70%).** "Important" grades are summative in nature and designed to measure students' accomplishment of expected course outcomes. They would include essays, multiple choice tests, projects, and/or presentations.
- **Smaller Grades (30%).** "Smaller" grades are formative in nature, designed to assist students in meeting the expected outcomes of the course. They would include homework assignments, quizzes, class activities, and/or participation.

**Semester Grades.** The first quarter grade (40%) and the second quarter grade (40%) are combined with the final exam (20%) to determine the semester grade. The final exam will be a cumulative exam of all units covered during the first and second quarters.

**Online Grades.** I maintain an up-to-date school web page, which includes access to student grades. In your confirmation of receipt of the course description, please provide me with a six to eight digit password so that you may access your son's grade online.

**Materials.** Failure to keep and maintain the required materials will result in loss of participation points.

- One Composition Notebook: for notes and reflections
- One Binder/Portfolio: for handouts, etc.
- Two blue and/or black ink pens
- Two sharp pencils

**Review Materials.** During the third quarter, students will be required to purchase a teacher selected study guide for the AP Government exam.

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**Internet Access.** Students will require Internet access and access to a form of email. A significant amount of information, materials, and assignments will be available through my school web page. If students do not have Internet access at home, it is available at the school library.

**Timeliness.** Personal responsibility is important for success in life and must be practiced. Late assignments will be reduced fifty percent (50%). Students missing class will be expected to turn in assignments no later than the day following their return to class.

**Absences.** Students should maintain a healthy lifestyle, wash their hands regularly, keep their hands away from their eyes and mouth, and make every effort to not miss school. The classroom experience cannot be replicated through homework assignments. That being said, students missing class should check my web page or contact a friend for the day's reading and homework assignment and make a reasonable effort to complete the assignment prior to returning to class.

- **TESTS** missed due to absence will be made up the day of return. **TESTS NOT MADE UP WILL RECEIVE A ZERO.** They will not be "omitted".
- Students missing school due to absence will submit **ESSAYS** via email on, or prior to, the day they are due.
- **PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS** will be submitted/made up on the first day back to school.

**Student Expectations.** Mr. Corner has the following expectations for all students:

- To be prepared for class by completing all reading and homework assignments on a daily basis.
- To do assignments completely and turn them in when they are due.
- To pay attention in class and take complete and accurate notes.
- To study and fully prepare for all tests and exams.
- To give an honest effort in the preparation of all assignments, tests, and exams.

### **Classroom Expectations**

- Cheating or copying others' work is expressly forbidden (see Student & Parent Handbook, page 13).
- All students are expected to be on time for class, in their assigned seats, in compliance with the dress code (see Student and Parent Handbook, pages 27-28), ready to begin, when the bell rings. Students will be dismissed by rows at the end of the period.
- Possession of cell phones beyond the school flagpole is prohibited. Violations of this prohibition will result in cell phones being confiscated; confiscated cell phones need to be picked up by a parent (Student & Parent Handbook, page 29).
- All bags will be stored at a designated place in the classroom.
- Food and drink are not allowed in classrooms at Palma High School.
- Respect for faculty and fellow students is expected at all times. This includes listening when others are asking questions and refraining from disrupting or delaying the class in any way. Any such instances will be dealt with progressively, including parental contact.

**Extra Help.** Mr. Corner is generally available for extra help in room E-2 during 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> periods. Students requiring assistance should meet with Mr. Corner to schedule a time to meet.

### **\*\*PARENTS\*\***

**Communicating with Mr. Corner.** Communication between the teacher and parent is necessary and important to the success of your son. We have several different ways of keeping that line of communication open. Please choose the method that is most appropriate to your need and easiest for you.

- Check my web page if you have questions about homework assignments, due dates, test dates, etc. I update this page daily.

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<http://www.palmahs.org/teachers/corner/index.htm>

- If you are generally wondering how your son is doing in class, ask him; ask to see his binder, ask to see his tests and essays, ask to see his assignments that he is working on at home and discuss the same with him. Probably most importantly, ask to see his homework calendar regularly. If it is blank, there is a problem.
- If you have a specific question about your son's progress, a specific assignment or due date, how I'm doing, etc.:
  - Email me: [scott.corner.palmahs@gmail.com](mailto:scott.corner.palmahs@gmail.com)
  - Call me: 831/422-6391
  - Send a note with your son
- Parent conferences are twice a year (at the end of the first quarter and first semester). It is difficult, and oftentimes not appropriate, to have an "unscheduled" conference at 7:55 or 2:53 in front of the school. If you would like to meet regarding your son's progress in school other than at the scheduled conferences, please contact me as above.

**Confirmation.** This handout is available for your reference at my school web page. Please email me this week to confirm that you have read the same. In your email, please provide the following information:

- Your son's name
- Your name
- Phone numbers where I can reach you
- Six to eight digit password for online grade access
- Any questions you have about the course
- At least one thing you would like me to know about your son

Thank you and best wishes for a successful year!