

What makes our economic world hum along, almost without our noticing? It's time to look under the hood! We'll study everything from the small daily economic decisions made by you and me all the way to international banking and trade. In line with the economics strand of the Minnesota Social Studies Standards, this one semester course will include fundamental economic concepts, economic reasoning skills, and an introduction to both microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Examples of topics covered include supply and demand, prices, opportunity cost, producers and consumers, scarcity and abundance, labor and employment, unions, competition, monopolies, inflation, growth, markets, and trade. Special attention will be given to the role of government influence, capitalism vs. socialism/communism, and the rule of law. Economics will be approached from a conservative, pro-freedom, pro-capitalism point of view, drawing largely from the Austrian school and the works of economists such as Frederic Bastiat, Henry Hazlitt, and Friedrich Hayek. A main text we will use is "A Capitalist Manifesto: Understanding the Market Economy and Defending Liberty" authored by Gary Wolfram, who is on the faculty of Hillsdale College. This text is used in the Hillsdale K12 curriculum for 10th grade.

Because the subject matter is unfamiliar to most students, the course may be challenging. Students can expect between 3 and 5 hours per week of reading, writing, video viewing, and preparation, depending on their background. Discussion is encouraged, and there will also be in class activities designed to illustrate important economic concepts.

Personal Finance (Spring semester) is recommended as a companion course. Students who have taken both Econ 'N Me and Personal Finance should emerge with a level of economic literacy that gives them insight into current economic events and allows them to engage in meaningful dialogue on the proper role of government in the economy.

Included in the course tuition are all reading materials (textbook, monographs, handouts, etc.). You will not need to purchase any additional materials.

Course tuition: \$260