

Economics: Wealth and Justice (Honors)

Course Objectives

Torrey Academy's Economics: Wealth and Justice course will accomplish two goals. First, students will receive their required Economics credit while learning the basic concepts of money, finance, and the economy. Students will learn practical ideas and skills that will help them understand how our current economy works and how the economy affects the lives of people. They will study the history of economics and various economic systems. They will understand how government economic policy is formed and its consequences. The students will also consider the virtue in various economic systems and discuss which is more in line with Christian principles. Students will consider the use of money in their own lives and study what Church fathers and Jesus himself said about the use of money and its effects on our lives and our souls. They will leave this class more thoughtful citizens of, as St. Augustine would say, both the City of Man and the City of God. We recommend that parents and independent study programs count this class as meeting the requirements for five high school honors economics credits.

Students will develop and apply an understanding of both macroeconomics and microeconomics. They will

- apply key economics terms in analytical discourse, including Gross Domestic Product, investment, market economy, and supply and demand
- identify factors that affect the economic systems in the United States
- analyze various types of economic systems throughout the world and articulate advantages and disadvantages of each

Students will analyze the history of economic philosophy. They will

- connect various economic systems and practices with the ideas of various schools of thought
- trace the history of various economic systems from idea to logical conclusion

Students will thoughtfully articulate a Christian understanding of the use of money. They will

- articulate what Jesus and church fathers said about the use of money
- articulate how they can apply virtuous financial habits in their own lives

Students will contribute in intellectual discussion confidently, critically, and charitably. They will

- ask relevant, critical questions about texts and ideas
- distinguish between good and bad arguments
- recognize, imitate, and produce sound, compelling, and logical arguments
- assess multiple perspectives with fairness and precision in reading, discussion, and writing
- articulate an economic thesis via formal outline and oral presentation
- assert opinions and beliefs about economics with courteous and reasonable arguments
- respond to opposition to opinions and beliefs with courteous and reasonable rebuttals

Course objectives will be realized through reading, writing, discussion, and research. The discussion and the writing assignments (in the form of short reflection essays) will serve as the evaluative tools to assess the student's progress toward the set objectives. Student notebooks serve as a catalog of the student's progress through the course of the academic year, and a final research project and related writing assignment is equivalent to a final exam.