Dear AP Econ Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in AP Macroeconomics! Please read through the following information carefully:

I use three main criteria in selecting students for this class:

1. Grades and Test Scores

   I will review your junior year grades and standardized test scores. In general, a minimum grade of A- is necessary in Math and History courses.

2. Teacher Recommendations

   I will solicit feedback from your teachers regarding your work ethic, classroom behavior, intellectual curiosity, and academic potential.

3. Short Essay

   Please write a short essay describing your interest in the course. Why is this course important to you? Will you work hard through your entire senior year, or will you be a "senior slide" candidate? Your essay should be no more than a page in length. Print out a hard copy and drop it in my mailbox, or send me your essay electronically via email or google docs.

Please see below for a full description of the course. Email me or see me at any time if you have questions about the course; I can usually be found in Room F169.

No action is required on your part regarding grades, test scores, or teacher recommendations.

If you have listed the course as an "alternate" choice, you will not be considered at this time, and so it is not necessary for you to write an essay.

Thanking you for your interest,
Mr. Oussenko

Course Description

The purpose of an advanced placement course in macroeconomics, according to the College Board, is "to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics."

The Delbarton "AP Macro" course is designed to help students create a foundation of economic literacy and to better understand the complex financial world we live in. It is preparatory in nature, building up to the Advanced Placement test in May. Students may earn college credit with success on this test.

The course will begin with a study of basic terms, methods and concepts, including scarcity, opportunity costs, and marginal analysis. The concepts of demand, supply, and equilibrium will be defined and illustrated, incorporating laws, models and graphs. Students will then probe into such economic indicators as GDP and CPI and understand how these barometers are calculated and used. They will study the role of government in the economy and differentiate between fiscal policy and monetary policy, exploring how "the Fed" works tactically and strategically against instability. Considerable time will be spent working with applications related to world trade and foreign exchange.

Our global economy stirs debate, adds complexity to society and requires that all citizens become well-informed decision-makers. To this end, the course will include an overview of basic accounting, personal finance and investment concepts. Students will be able to incorporate theory and vocabulary into current events and draw parallels from text study to our own market system and challenging times. AP Macro students will leverage Bloomberg software as a unique resource and will earn Bloomberg certification by completing Bloomberg Market Concepts, an 8-hour self-paced e-learning course that provides a visual introduction to the financial markets.

The course will conclude with ample time for review in preparation for the AP examination.

From time to time, expert market participants (traders, economists, business owners) will visit Delbarton (either in-person or virtually) to deepen our understanding of course material. If COVID-19 protocols allow, we will also consider field trips so students can witness some kind of market operation (i.e. hedge fund, brokerage shop, trading floor) in action.