

Friday Addition

High School - Government & Economics

2011-2012
Instructor: Mark Sooy

We will explore the topic of Government for the first semester, and Economics in the second semester. However, due to the overlap of Government and Economic issues, students will find that the two interact and inform each other. At times we will discuss both. *Regardless of our discussion, we will seek to view Government and Economics through the lens of a Christian Worldview – and why Christians should be educated, concerned and involved in these areas of our culture.*

In the first semester we will consider Government from several vantage points. This will include discussions of Natural Law, the Rule of Law, reading and discussing the founding documents of the United States, as well as an overview of basic political philosophies. There may be an opportunity to interact directly with State or Federal Representatives who will be asked to visit the class.

During the second semester we will turn to develop an understanding of Economics. This will include discussion of economic theories, markets, money supply and control, entrepreneurialism – as well as the moral and ethical factors relating to economics (virtue, freedom and justice). We may have opportunity to interact and visit with experts from the *Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty* (based in Grand Rapids).

The texts used for this class cover a broad spectrum. One the one hand, students will read Richard Maybury's books which are accompanied by a workbook (*Bluestocking Guide*) that helps them interact with the concepts presented. These will help in assessment and grading. On the other hand, we will also consider shorter books and articles that are more scholarly in nature, yet are considered hallmarks of solid thinking in these areas. The intention is to both teach the basics, as well as challenge them in their understanding. It is important that each student obtain the specific texts listed so we are all working from the same editions. Used texts may be available, but verify that they are the same editions as listed.

Texts

Government:

- **“Are You Liberal? Conservative? or Confused?”** 2nd Edition by **Richard J. Maybury** (Available from www.bluestockingpress.com for \$12.95)
- **“A Bluestocking Guide: Political Philosophies”** by **Jane A. Williams** (Available from www.bluestockingpress.com for \$12.95)
- **“The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution** (provided at no charge for each student)
- **“The Law”** by **Frederic Bastiat** (Published by Foundation for Economic Education, 1998 with an Introduction by Walter E. Williams. Available from the Bookshoppe at www.Acton.org for \$4.50)
- Various articles and essays available online or to be provided.
- Various video segments from leading authorities to be viewed in class.

Economics:

- **“Whatever Happened to Penny Candy? A fast, clear, and fun explanation of the economics you need for success in your career, business, and investments”** 6th edition by **Richard J. Maybury** (Available from www.bluestockingpress.com for \$14.95)
- **“A Bluestocking Guide: Economics”** by **Jane A. Williams** (Available from www.bluestockingpress.com for \$16.95)
- **“Toward and Free and Virtuous Society”** and **“The Entrepreneurial Vocation”** both small books by **Robert A. Sirico** (Available from the Bookshoppe at www.Acton.org for \$5.00 each)
- Various articles and essays available online or to be provided.
- Various video segments from leading authorities to be viewed in class.