This is a mandatory assignment. Students who do not complete the assignment properly and in its entirety should not expect to remain enrolled in the course.

This assignment is designed to introduce students to the subject of economics and help them recognize the value of studying macroeconomics in particular.

All work must be prepared as your own original work in a single Google document and submitted to Google Classroom no later than 11:59 PM on August 31, 2021. Please plan accordingly; do not wait until the last minute to complete the assignment.

Use the following code to join the Google Classroom for AP Macroeconomics - Summer Assignment 2021-2022:

Class Code: dguibna

Assignment Instructions:

1. Write an original essay on the topic of why studying macroeconomics is important and how knowing this information can help you and the average person in his/her life.
2. Prepare your essay in a standard five-paragraph format with an introduction, body, and conclusion and using proper English grammar. It should be about two (2) pages in length using size 11 or 12 text, a standard type font, and 1.5 line spacing.
3. Each body paragraph should focus on a specific economic indicator. Therefore, you must discuss three different economic indicators in your essay. (See the pages that follow for a list of common economic indicators and sources for information.) For each economic indicator, consider the impact on your life now and/or how it might impact your future.
4. You must properly credit all research sources. Include a Works Cited page at the end if you use parenthetical references/citations within your document, or include a Bibliography of sources if you don't use parenthetical citations. This should be a new page at the end of the document and not counted in the two pages of essay writing. Please check out the Purdue University "Online Writing Lab" (Purdue OWL) at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ for assistance in how to prepare various types of source citations, if needed.
5. Type the essay in a Google document. Be sure to type your name at the top of the document and submit it as a word processed document. Do not submit in PDF or any other document format. Your document will be scanned for originality.

NOTE: It is not expected that you know much about the subject of macroeconomics at this point, but hopefully you have a general idea of what the course is about and can use that, at a minimum, along with some basic research to formulate a valid response. You may revisit this essay later in the course after having explored the subject in more depth.
Economic Indicators

Below is an alphabetized list of various economic indicators. Each is provided with the name of the organization from which you might find data on the indicator.

1. Business Inventories and Sales – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
2. Construction Spending – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
3. Consumer Confidence Index – The Conference Board
5. Durable Goods Orders – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
6. Factory Orders and Manufacturing Inventories – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
8. Housing Starts/Building Permits – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
9. Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization – Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
11. Merchandise Trade Balance – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
12. New Home Sales – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
17. Retail Sales – Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce
18. The Purchasing Managers’ Index – National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM)
Economic Indicators Web Sites
Following are suggested web sites you might use to research economic indicators.

Bureau of Economic Analysis
www.bea.gov

Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

CIA World Factbook
http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

Investopedia.com’s Guide to Economic Indicators
http://www.investopedia.com/university/releases/

FreeLunch.com
http://www.economy.com/freelunch/default.asp

FRED II® (Federal Reserve Economic Data)
http://www.research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
http://www.federalreserve.gov/

Federal Reserve Education
http://www.federalreserveeducation.org/FRED/

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov
http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

The Conference Board
http://www.conference-board.org/
http://www.conference-board.org/economics/

NOTES:
• You can also go to Google or another search engine and enter the name of the economic indicator in quotation marks as the keyword search text. This will give you web pages that include information you might be able to use to help you understand the indicator and its impact as you formulate a response to the essay prompt.

• DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA AS A PRIMARY SOURCE. If you use Wikipedia, look at the sources on Wikipedia, and go to the sources noted in the Wikipedia article. Then, use those primary sources for your information rather than Wikipedia.