Unit 1

Introduction

The Definition of Economics

New key terms and Class notes:

1. What is economics?

2. What are needs?

3. What are wants:

4. What are universal needs:

5. What are non-universal wants:

6. What is the nature of wants:

7. What is the basic economic truth:

8. What is the key word when discussing needs?

9. What are the three universal needs?

10. What are some examples of non universal needs?

11. Why is simply saying medicine or surgery sufficient when giving examples of needs?

12. When can a car, cell phone, or even a hole puncher be a need?

13. What is the key word when discussing wants?

14. What were some of the wants shared in class?

15. Why or why not are the wants (“desires”) of women different than those of men?

16. Why or why not the wants (“desires”) of teenagers your age different than those of your parents?

17. What are some influences in our wants?

18. What is the significance of the basic economic truth?

19. Why do people generally satisfy needs before wants?

20. What are products?

21. What are goods?

22. What are services?

23. What are examples of goods?

24. What are examples of services?

Understanding the Nature of Wants

25. What is rational self interest?

26. What are incentives?

27. What are positive incentives?

28. What are negative incentives?

29. What is relationship between social norms and wants?

30. What are some social norms in Northern Europe?

31. What are some social norms in Spain?

32. What role does gossip play with regards to social norms?

33. What were the four psychological groups we divided the class into?

34. How did we further divide the four groups?

35. Identify one want for each of these four groups?

36. What are some examples of how religions influences wants?

37. What are some examples of how climate or seasons influence wants?

38. What do most Americans want in October?

39. What do most Americans eat in November?

40. What are some wants in December?

41. What might you want for a trip to the Los Cabos, Mexico?

42. Why might you want to learn another language?

43. How did the teacher use a Taylor Swift song to illustrate the nature of wants?

44. Why do many American families have “special wants” when searching for a new home in a foreign country?

45. What additional sociological factors can influence our desires?

46. What is Macroeconomics?

47. What is Microeconomics?

48. What is Scarcity?

49. What is Shortage?

Understanding the Significance of the Basic Economic Truth

50. What is Standard of Living:

51. What is Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”)

52. What is Nominal GDP?

53. What is Real GDP?

54. What is Per-Capita GDP:

55. What is a household?

56. What is a business?

57. What are examples of shortages?

58. What are examples of scarcity?

59. What is the relationship between scarcity and shortage to the basic economic truth?

60. What are some examples of scarcity overseas?

61. What are some examples of shortages overseas?

62. How can political systems or decisions result in shortages?

63. What are some examples of scarcity caused by political decisions?

64. What are some examples of shortages caused by political decisions?

65. How might culture and religion influence wants and needs overseas?

66. How have religious beliefs overseas affected national GDP?

67. How has restrictions on “illegal immigrants” affected GDP in the US?

68. How have regulations on women overseas affected GDP in some nations?

69. How have social norms/customs contributed to the scarcity of proper sanitation overseas?

70. Why does this poor sanitation affect nation’s GDP?

71. How are incentives being used to address this problem?

72. How is the basic economic truth requiring rethinking of how we deal with proper sanitation?

73. How are companies those manufacturers attempting to increase demand for their products?

74. What role are entrepreneurs playing and what is their motive?

75. Why is this motive generally successful?

76. What is the Gates Foundation doing to address this issue? (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdwvuTrycYU)

77. How do toilets reflect different cultural differences between Europeans and Americans?

78. In what way are the defecation habits in the third world beneficial to these populations?

79. How is an American company attempting to address this issue and what is their motive?

80. What can we say regarding the standard of living in India or Indonesia in comparison to that in the United States or Europe?