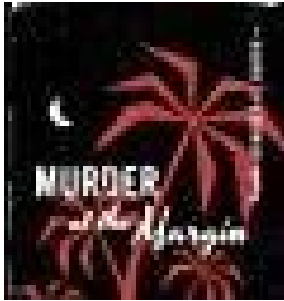


AP Economics  
Ms. Kearns  
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2022



*Murder at the Margin* by Marshall Jevons: Summer Assignment

**Welcome to A.P. Economics!!**

A.P. Economics will offer you the opportunity to explore many concepts throughout the year that impact your everyday life. We will begin the year by focusing on Macroeconomics. This part of the course will give an overview of how to measure GDP, unemployment and inflation. In addition, we will discuss theories of economics and how those theories apply to inflation and unemployment. Lastly, we will determine how currencies appreciate and depreciate and learn just why, it might cost you more to go on a vacation abroad one year compared to another year. Following that, we will learn about all the key topics of Microeconomics. Some of the Microeconomics topics we will learn about include: consumer choice, the elasticity of products, market types, how firms determine how many workers to hire, and how externalities such as pollution are dealt with in the market.

However, before we start I would like to review some basic economic concepts such as supply & demand, opportunity cost, utility and the rationality of consumers and their behaviors. These economic concepts all relate to things we think about every day, even if we do not know it. The following assignment is designed at provoking thought into the main concepts of economics along with connecting those ideas to real-world situations. Please pay attention to details when completing the project and focus on the quality of your work. It will be imperative to us getting off to a quick start when we return from summer break!

## Summer Assignment

This summer each student is expected to complete the following two-part assignment:

### Part One: Reading and Terms.

Please read "[Murder at the Margin](#)" by Marshall Jevons. This is a murder mystery that is solved by a Harvard Economist, Henry Spearman. He solves the murder by applying several basic laws of economics to the behaviors he has witnessed a Caribbean island. While reading this book, For each of the terms below, please complete the following:

1. Define the economic term in your own words. Do not look it up online! The point here is for me to get a sense of how well you understand this concept as we begin our course of study together.
2. Explain how the economic term is applied in the plot of the novel. How does Spearman use the term to solve the murder and/or interact with other characters?
3. Cite specific chapters and at least one quote in which the economic principle is applied in the novel.

### Economic Terms

- Opportunity Cost/ "No such thing as a free lunch"
- Law of Demand
- Utility Function
- Profit Maximization
- Negative Returns

### Part Two: Find two articles which illustrate each of the 5 Economic Terms

You will be required to research two articles, podcasts or interviews for each of the 5 Economic terms highlighted in the reading. That is ten articles in all. There are a lot of economic articles published on a daily basis. For each article please:

1. Summarize the main points made in the article.
2. Describe how the podcast/article relates to the Economic concept.
3. Include a comment or analysis of the article. You may choose to answer questions such as:
  - How is this economic news applicable to your own life? Explain.
  - Do you agree or disagree with the author's point of view? Why?
  - Make a prediction as to what will happen in the future based on your understanding of the article or podcast.
4. Please include a link for each article.

Listed below are sources which can be used for your current events and topics.

- Yahoo Finance <https://finance.yahoo.com/>
- Planet Money <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127413729>
- Econ Talks <http://www.econtalk.org/>
- [Allsides.com](http://www.allsides.com) - this is a website that collates news sources from the left, right, and center on similar topics. You hit most major news organizations and get multiple perspectives: <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>
- Freakonomics Radio - great podcast that breaks down economic concepts as they relate to current events: <https://freakonomics.com/podcasts/>
- Marketplace by NPR: <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381444600/marketplace>
- A local newspaper/magazine. Choose an article that deals with a local topic!

**The summer assignment will be due on Schoology by September 12<sup>th</sup>.**