Course Syllabus
AGEC 4351 – Land & Natural Resource Economics

Instructor: Andrew P. Wright, Ph.D.
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Phone: (325) 486-6751
Office: VIN 226, Vincent Building
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 3:00-4:00pm, or any time I am in my office with the door open.

Course Description
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the economic concepts related to the trade of agricultural products in international markets. To this end, I have split the material you will learn into 4 parts:

• Part 1 provides students with a review of basic economic concepts.
• Part 2 further explores the economics of resource use.
• Part 3 focuses on potential sources of inefficiency in resource markets, and possible solutions.
• Part 4 looks at methods of valuing the benefits created by natural resources and the environment.

Meeting Time & Location
Where: Rassman Building, room 266
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays; 8:00 – 9:15 am

Required Technology, Skills, and Knowledge
I will rely on the course Blackboard page to deploy lecture materials, homework assignments, and other materials as needed. To successfully complete this course, students are expected to:

• Possess access to the necessary hardware required to view online materials, such as:
  o A computer or mobile device with a reliable internet connection, and
  o The ability to view videos from various sources and that use various formats; and,
• Possess basic web navigation skills.

There are no official prerequisites for this course; however, I expect that students enrolled in AGEC 4351 have already taken an introductory course in economics. If you have not taken such a course in the past then you can expect to have a more difficult time with some of the topics we cover than students who have. I also expect that students taking this course have prior experience with the mathematic and algebraic concepts taught in an introductory college algebra course. I will be happy to help any students who feel like they are falling behind; however, it is the responsibility of the student to seek help.
Textbook & Required Materials
We will be using Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: A Contemporary Approach, 4e (Harris & Roach, 2018). ISBN: 9781138659476

In addition, you may the following open education resource (i.e. it's free) helpful for studying some topics: Principles of Microeconomics, 2e (Taylor, Greenlaw, & Shapiro, 2017). Students can gain access to the text on the OpenStax™ website. I will also offer a link to the text on the course Blackboard page.

I also plan on posting web links to videos and readings related to the material we will cover this semester.

Course Learning Objectives
As your instructor I have established a set of learning goals and related objectives:

- **Goal 1:** Learn essential knowledge. Students will demonstrate the correct use of microeconomic principles to analyze problems related to the use of natural & environmental resources.
- **Goal 2:** Develop critical thinking skills. Students will take numerical and graphical data, synthesize this data into usable information, and use the information they create to analyze and evaluate resource & environmental management issues.
- **Goal 3:** Develop quantitative skills. Learning Goal 3 is strongly related to Goal 2. Where Goal 2 emphasizes the ability to draw conclusions using data, Goal 3 emphasizes the ability to use quantitative skills to create the information you need to draw conclusions.

This list provides a general idea of what a student must do to successfully complete this course. A more detailed list of goals and objectives will be made available to students on the course Blackboard page. Students’ progress toward these goals will be assessed through their performance on exams and homework assignments.

Grading Policies
Your grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 800. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 720-800 points
- B = 640-719 points
- C = 560-639 points
- D = 480-559 points
- F = 0-479 points

You will earn points based on your performance on the following tasks:

- Exams: 300 points
- Application Assignments: 400 points
- Course Entry Task: 50 points
- Course Exit Task: 50 points
Exams
There are three midterm exams scheduled for this course, plus one final exam.

- Because the first part of the course is a review there is no exam related to this section.
- Each midterm exam will focus specifically on the material from the second, third, or fourth parts of the course. The final exam will be cumulative.
- Each exam is worth 100 points. The exam portion of your grade will be calculated using the highest three of your four exam scores. You must sit for the final exam regardless of your performance on the three midterm exams.
- If you miss an exam and the absence is excused you may make up the exam on a different date that you and I agree on. If the absence is not excused you will not be allowed to make up the exam.
- If you are late to class on the day of an exam you may still take the exam, as long as no students have turned in their copy to me and exited the classroom. If you are late you will not be given extra time to complete an exam.

Application Assignments
During the course you will be required to complete 8 application assignments; two for each part of the course. Each assessment is worth 50 points and will normally be due on Fridays at 11:59 pm. The purpose of these assignments is to give you a chance to assess your progress toward the course goals and objectives; therefore, you will be allowed three attempts on each assignment. After each attempt, please take an inventory of the questions you missed, determine which topics, goals, and objectives those questions are related to, and review the course materials related to these items before attempting the assignment again. It is possible to earn full credit through "trial and error"; however, doing so will not help you accomplish the learning goals for the course.

Course Entry Task
You must complete a syllabus quiz on or before Friday, August 31. The purpose of this task is to make sure that you are aware of the course goals and policies, and that you are prepared to engage with the course materials. Completing this task will earn you 50 points toward your final grade. This task is largely effort-based; as long as you successfully complete it you should earn full credit.

Course Exit Task (the final exam)
Hopefully, every student will earn high grades on each of the three midterms and will not need to use the final exam as a part of their final grade. All students still need to take the final exam, however, so that I can perform a final assessment of your progress toward the course learning goals. For this reason, you will earn 50 points towards your final grade simply for taking the final. For many of you, this may be the final "bump" you need to progress to a higher letter grade.

Extra Credit
Students in AGEC 4351 have the opportunity to have 40 of extra credit points added to their final point total (equivalent to half a letter grade) by completes the semester with 3 or less unexcused absences.
Policy on Late Tasks and Assignments
An assignment that is submitted after the posted due date is considered late. Any assignment may be turned in late, but will be subject to a 50% grading penalty. The deadline to submit late assignments is Monday, December 10, at 8:00 am.

Attendance
Attendance is essential to perform well in this class. I expect students to attend class unless they have been excused beforehand. Furthermore, I expect students to arrive on time and prepared to participate in the lecture and discussion.

How I Take Attendance
I will maintain a record of every student’s attendance for each day of class. If I do not record that you were in class then you will be counted absent on that day, so if you come in to class late make sure you check in with me at the end of class.

Definition of an Unexcused Absence
An absence that is not related to a University event or is not approved by me beforehand is unexcused. I am willing to consider excusing any absence as long as you inform me of the absence and explain why it cannot be avoided. Please note that I am more likely to excuse an absence if you inform me prior to the start of class. Finally, please also note that consider does not mean accept.

Information Missed During an Absence
You are responsible for any information related to the class that you miss while absent. I am happy to answer any questions you might have, but I will not reproduce a lecture for you in my office.

ASU Policy on Religious Holy Days
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices
Your cell phone may be left on but should be put away and silenced during lectures. If I see a cell phone out during an exam I will take up your exam and you will receive a failing grade for the exam. If you wish to use an electronic device to take notes during lectures you may do so; however, if I feel that your use of such a device is causing a distraction I will ask you to put it away.

Contacting Dr. Wright
Communication is an important skill that nearly all employers look for in new employees, and particularly in college graduates. Learning to communicate professionally is vital if you wish to remain employed in any career for very long. For this reason, when you contact me via email, please include a
subject a, greeting, and a signature. For example, if you are experiencing a difficulty logging into Connect your email might look like this:

Subject: Connect is down
Dear Dr. Wright,
I tried to log in to Connect to complete the application assignment that is due tonight, but it seems the program is down for emergency maintenance. Have any other students encountered this issue? Considering the circumstance, would you please extend the assignment’s deadline?
Thank you,
[Your Name]

Be advised that I may ask some follow up questions and your answers might determine how accommodating I am.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct
Angelo State University expects its student to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for reading and understanding the policies set forth in the Student Handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act
Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112
Policies on Deviations from this Syllabus

While I hope I do not have to make any changes to the course policies or course schedule, there is always the possibility that special circumstances will arise that necessitate changes be made. If such a circumstance occurs then I will communicate it both in class, via Blackboard, and by email. Once announced, any such changes will supersede what is written in this syllabus.

Course Schedule

Below is an abbreviated version of the schedule for this course. Reading assignments, homework assignments, and all due dates will be posted to the course Blackboard page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 27-31</td>
<td>Course orientation &amp; begin Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 3-7</td>
<td>Continue Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 10-14</td>
<td>Finish Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 17-21</td>
<td>Begin Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept. 24-28</td>
<td>Continue Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct. 1-5</td>
<td>Finish Part 2; begin Part 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 8-12</td>
<td>Continue Part 3; take Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 15-19</td>
<td>Review Exam 1; continue Part 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 22-26</td>
<td>Continue Part 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct. 29 – Nov. 2</td>
<td>Finish Part 3 ; begin Part 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov. 5-9</td>
<td>Continue Part 4; take Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 12-16</td>
<td>Review Exam 2; continue Part 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov. 19-23</td>
<td>Finish Part 4; Thanksgiving holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov. 26-30</td>
<td>Take Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec. 3-7</td>
<td>Review Exam 3; prepare for final exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-microeconomics-2e
\(^2\) http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
\(^3\) http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/index.php