Course Syllabus
AGEC 4305—Agricultural Policy and Analysis

Instructor: Kishor Luitel, Ph.D.
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Office: VIN 227, Vincent Building
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 3:00-4:00pm, or any time I am in my office with the door open.

Course Description
Students will gain a foundation in public policy evaluation. Students will utilize graphical, mathematical, and rhetorical approaches in presenting/analyzing economic principles applicable to policy analysis. This is a writing and discussion intensive course and will require significant time and energy in quality writing and presentation. To this end, I have split the material you will learn into 3 parts:

- Part 1 introduction to policy analysis and policy analysis tools
- Part 2 global economy connection and property rights
- Part 3 opportunities, challenges and future for US agricultural and food policy.

Meeting Time & Location
Where: Vincent Nursing Physical Sci 263
When: Tuesday and Thursday; 8:00 am – 9:15 am

Required Technology, Skills, and Knowledge
I rely on Blackboard to deploy lecture materials, homework assignments, and extra credit opportunities. 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;
- Possess basic web navigation skills;

This class required basic understanding of economics, market, mathematic, and algebraic concept. If you do not have much experience with these skills or are uncertain about your ability, the ASU tutoring center is a great resource for help with basic math skills.

Recommended Textbook & Required Materials
Grading

Your grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 850. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 850-765 points
- B = 764-680 points
- C = 679-595 points
- D = 594-510 points
- F = 509-0 points

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

- Exams – 300 points
- Assignments – 300 points
- Group work -200 point
- 1 Course Entry Tasks – 50 points

Exams

There are three midterm exams scheduled for this course, plus one final exam.

- Each midterm exam will focus on the material from one part 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 four 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.

Assignments

During the course, you will be required to complete multiple assignments. Each assignment may have different points. The due date for each assignment will be announced in the class. 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 assessment. 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 assessment 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 Tasks**
You must complete an entry tasks on or before **Friday, January 25**. The purpose of these tasks is to make sure that you are aware of the course goals and policies, and that you are prepared to interact with the various technologies that we will be using in the course before you actually need them.

Completing the tasks will earn you 50 points toward your final grade. These points are largely effort-based; as long as you successfully complete each task you should earn full credit.

**Group work**
This group work consist of a debate. Fully completing this assignment will earn you 200 points.

The purpose of the debate is three-fold. First, and most obviously, the purpose is to teach critical thinking skills in identifying a problem, applying the appropriate knowledge and gathering evidence, and communicating thoughts in a logical, coherent way. Second, gathering information on the varied topics will help reinforce the practical implications of the theoretical discussions of markets. Finally, debating current topics should provide students with perspective that very few problems are black/white. Rather, there are tradeoffs to be made, but if we do not understand both sides of a problem, it is more difficult to identify potential trade-offs.

Students will receive further detail about this assignment in class.

**Extra Credit**
There will be several quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover the material presented in class and/or assigned for reading. Any missed quiz will receive a grade of zero.

**Policy on Late Tasks and Assignments**
An assignments submitted after their announced due date is considered late. Any of these assignments may be turned in late, but will be subject to a 50% grade penalty. The deadline to submit late assignments is **Friday, April 26**, before 12:00 midnight.

**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 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. Luitel
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: AGEC 4305: [issue]
Dear Dr. Luitel,

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 students 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 and via Blackboard. 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>Jan. 14-18</td>
<td>Course orientation &amp; class begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 4 - 8</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 4 -8</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 11-15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 22 – 26</td>
<td>Exam III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Apr 29- May 3</td>
<td>Presentation and Review for Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>May 6 at 10:30am</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/index.php