Course Syllabus Summer I 2019
AGEC 2317 020 – Introduction to Agricultural Economics & Business

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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 fundamental principles of economics and their application to the behavior of individuals, businesses, and societies. To this end, I have split the material you will learn into 4 parts:

- Part 1 introduces the “big ideas” of economics (scarcity, the Cost-Benefit Principle, and Supply & Demand).
- Part 2 will show students how to use supply & demand to understand and analyze markets.
- Part 3 focuses on the use of supply & demand to understand and analyze public policy.
- Part 4 is dedicated to the study of economic costs and profit maximization in the competitive market structure.

Communication Methods
Being an online class the best way to communicate to me is using email. I will reply to you as soon as I can within 24 hours in business days. Please follow the instruction given in this syllabus while sending me email.

Required Technology & Computer Skills
For an online class technology is necessary. I rely on Blackboard and the McGraw-Hill Connect platform, 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:
  - A computer or mobile device with a reliable internet connection,
  - The ability to view videos from various sources and that use various formats.
  - A webcam connected to their computer or mobile device for use during exams may be required. **Instructor will evaluation of Exam I to decide to use webcam.**
- Possess basic web navigation skills; and,
- **Register for McGraw-Hill Connect Plus** on or before the first day of class.
- **Install the Respondus LockDown Browser** on their computer or mobile device on or before the first day of class.

Instructions that explain how to register for Connect Plus and how to install the LockDown Browser can be accessed from the course Blackboard page. Students will need to pay to register for Connect Plus, but can begin the class with two weeks of free courtesy access.
Textbook & Required Materials
- This course is based on the 7th edition of *Principles of Microeconomics* by Frank, Bernanke, Antonovics, & Heffetz.
- I will use the course Blackboard page to deliver course content such as lecture handouts and videos.
- I utilize McGraw-Hill’s Connect platform to deploy homework assignments and other course content. Purchasing a hard copy is optional. Students can access Connect via the course Blackboard page.
- Online registration link: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/k-luitel-agec-2317-020-sum-i

Respondus Lockdown Browser & Respondus Monitor
- You must use Respondus Lockdown Browser and may require webcam to access the online exams.
- The link to the Respondus Lockdown Browser is provide below and it is also under the Technology Support Tab of Blackboard: https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=384131921%20

ASU eLearning has created this video for students to help to run the lockdown browser.
- Video link: https://youtu.be/9ngvbZEDOxM
- Correction in this video, the download for LockDown Browser is found under the Technology Support tab and not “Support”.

To take an online test, start LockDown Browser and navigate to the exam. (You won't be able to access the exam with a standard web browser). When taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:
- Select a location where you won't be interrupted,
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you’ve allotted sufficient time to complete it,
- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc. and don't have them within reach,
- Clear your area of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices,
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test, and
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted.

To ensure LockDown Browser and webcam are working properly, do the following:
- Start LockDown Browser, log into Blackboard, and select this course.
- Locate and select the Help Center button on the LockDown Browser toolbar.
- Run the Webcam Check and, if necessary, resolve any issues.
- Run the System & Network Check. If a problem is indicated, see if a solution is provided in the Knowledge Base. Troubleshooting information can also be emailed to our institution’s help desk. Toll-free: 1-866-942-2911 and email: itsupport@angelo.edu.
• Exit the Help Center and locate the practice quiz named Respondus Set-Up Quiz (found in the orientation module).
• Upon completing and submitting the practice quiz, exit LockDown Browser.

Knowledge Prerequisites
As an introductory course in microeconomics, this class has very few prerequisites in terms of knowledge. I do expect that students taking this course have prior experience with some basic mathematic and algebraic concepts:

- Students should know what a ratio is and how to interpret one.
- Students should know what the slope of a straight line communicates about the relationship between two variables.
- Students should be able to calculate the slope of a line using information found in a graph.
- Students should be able to solve for an unknown variable in an equation.
- Students should know how to take numerical information and plug it in to an equation to calculate a solution.

I provide an opportunity to review and practice these skills at the beginning of the course.

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 draw conclusions about market outcomes.
- 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 draw conclusions about market outcomes.
- 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.

Core Student Learning Objectives
AGEC 2317 has been approved to count towards your Social Sciences core credit. To this end, students taking this course must show progress toward 4 goals.

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills (CT)
- Demonstrate communication skills (CS)
- Demonstrate empirical and quantitative skills (EQS)
- Demonstrate social responsibility (SR)

Progress toward these objectives will be assessed using exams and homework assignments.
Grading

Your grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 900. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 810-900 points
- B = 720-809 points
- C = 630-719 points
- D = 540-629 points
- F = 0-539 points

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

- Exams – 400 points
- Application Assignments – 200 points
- LearnSmart modules – 200 points
- 4 Course Entry Tasks – 100 points
- Bonus points Videos assignments – 100 points

Exams

There are four 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 four of your five exam scores. Final exam is optional, you may take it based on your performance on the four midterm exams and possible final grade upgrade for taking the final exam. If you did not take final exam, your four midterm grade will be used.
- 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.
- All the midterm exams are scheduled on Friday. It is available for you to take it between 8:00am - 8:00pm on that day.
- Students will not generally be allowed to access an exam once the deadline is passed.
- Every exam will be timed; will require you to use Respondus LockDown Browser.
- You must use Respondus Lockdown Browser and may require the use of a webcam and Respondus Monitor to access the exam. Once you begin the exam you must complete it in a single sitting. Each exam has a time limit in which you must complete it. The time limit will vary according to the number of questions on the exam, but you can expect to have about 1-2 minutes for each question. That would be 60 minutes maximum for a 30-questions exam. You may use a calculator during exams.
**The Final Exam**

Hopefully, you will all earn high grades on each of the four midterms and will not need to use your final exam score as a part of your final grade. Taking the Final Exam does not hurt your grade. It is just another opportunity to improve your grade for this class. This opportunity to improvement grade may not apply to everyone, as taking the final may not change your grade.

**Daily Assignments**

There will be different types of assignment almost daily. There would be 16 assignment all together.

LearnSmart modules in Connect is an adaptive learning modules in Connect's Smart Book program that ask you questions as you read each chapter. There will be 8 LearnSmart module assignments, two each week. It will be due on Tuesday at 11:59pm.

Application assignment in Connect consist of multiple-choice question, fill in the blank, and graphical question. There will be 8 of these application assignments, two each week. 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. It will be due on Wednesday and Thursday at 11:59pm.

*Each assessment is worth 25 points.*

**Course Entry Tasks**

You must complete four entry tasks on or before **Monday, June 3**. 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. The four tasks you must complete are:

1. Read the syllabus, review the course policies, review Angelo State’s policies regarding academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and complete a short quiz over this information;
2. Register for McGraw-Hill Connect and complete a series of orientation exercises;
3. Complete a set of Math Preparation exercises in Connect; and,
4. Download the Respondus LockDown Browser and complete a short quiz to confirm that Respondus Monitor is working properly.

Completing each of these tasks will earn you 25 points toward your final grade, for a total of 100 points. These points are largely effort-based; as long as you successfully complete each task you should earn full credit.

**Extra credit**

To earn extra credit you will have to watch videos and complete the assignment in connect. This assignment will help you understand the concept and give you opportunity to earn additional points.
These additional points may help you improve your overall grade. There will be 4 of these assignments and are due on Thursday at 11:59 pm. Students can earn up to 100 points after completing this assignments.

**Policy on Late Tasks and Assignments**
An application or course entry assignment that is 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, June 28, at 11:59 pm.

**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, greeting, and a signature. For example, if you are experiencing a difficulty logging into Connect your email might look like this:

Subject: AGEC 2317 020: Connect is down
Dear Dr. Luitel,
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 websiteii. 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>
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| Week 1, Part 1 | Monday, June 3  
Tuesday, June 4  
Wednesday, June 5  
Thursday, June 6  
Friday, June 7 | First day of class, Course Entry Tasks due  
LearnSmart module due  
Application Assignment 1 due  
Application Assignment 2 and video (bonus) due  
Exam I |
| Week 2, Part 2 | Tuesday, June 11  
Wednesday, June 12  
Thursday, June 13  
Friday, June 14 | LearnSmart module due  
Application Assignment 1 due  
Application Assignment 2 and video (bonus) due  
Exam II |
| Week 3, Part 3 | Tuesday, June 18  
Wednesday, June 19  
Thursday, June 20  
Friday, June 21 | LearnSmart module due  
Application Assignment 1 due  
Application Assignment 2 and video (bonus) due  
Exam III |
| Week 4, Part 4 | Tuesday, June 25  
Wednesday, June 26  
Thursday, June 27  
Friday, June 28  
July 3  | LearnSmart module due  
Application Assignment 1 due  
Application Assignment 2 and video (bonus) due  
Exam IV  
Final Exam (Cumulative) |

\(^1\) http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
\(^2\) http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/index.php