Course Syllabus
AGEC 2317 – Introduction to Agricultural Economics and Business

Instructor
Ms. English Ratliff M.Sc.

Email: eratliff@angelo.edu

Office: #226, Vincent Building

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 2pm-3:30pm, by appointment, or any time that 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.

Meeting Time & Location
11:00 am - 11:50 am MWF Vincent Nursing Physical Sci 263

Required Technology and Computer Skills
To successfully complete this course, students are expected to:

• Possess basic web navigation skills.
• Register for McGraw-Hill Connect Plus during the first week of class.

Instructions that explain how to register for Connect Plus 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.

Expected Knowledge Prerequisites
As an introductory course in microeconomics, this class has very few required 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 as a graded assignment during the first week of the course.
Textbook & Learning Platforms

McGraw-Hill Connect Plus
This course is based on the 7th edition of Principles of Microeconomics by Frank, Bernanke, Antovics & Heffetz (2019; ISBN: 9781260110869). Registering for McGraw-Hill Plus will provide you with an electronic copy of the text. I will use McGraw-Hill Connect Plus to deploy weekly reading and study assignments. You will be able to access all course content, including McGraw-Hill content, through the course Blackboard page.

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 weekly application/study assignments.

THECB Core Curriculum 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 through a written set of short essay assignments that will be deployed during the semester. These assignments will not count toward a student’s grade; however, any student that does not complete these assignments will receive a grade of “Incomplete” for the course until they turn the assignments in.

Grading
Your grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 1500. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- To earn an A, you must earn 1350-1500 points
- To earn a B, you must earn 1200-1349 points
- To earn a C, you must earn 1050-1199 points
- To earn a D, you must earn 900-1049 points

You will earn points based on your performance on the following tasks:
• Exams: 375 points
• Weekly reading & study assignments: 1100 points
• Course entry tasks: 100 points
• Course exit task: 25 points

Exams
There are three exams scheduled for this course. Each exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions, taken from the test bank provided by the authors of the textbook, split into four parts. Each part contains 25 questions and focuses on one chapter. Each exam is worth 100 points towards a student’s final grade with the exception of the third exam which is worth 75 points.
• Exam 1: The first exam will cover Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4.
• Exam 2: The second exam will cover Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8.
• Exam 3: The third exam will cover Chapters 11, 13 & 14.

Class attendance rules:
Attendance is essential to perform well in this class. Attendance will be taken randomly during the semester, but if an absence is necessary, please contact me before class begins. You are responsible for all material covered in class. If you miss class, you must contact a fellow student and get the notes. I will be happy to answer any questions; however, I will not reproduce the day’s lecture.

SAEA Assignment
We will not meet for lecture February 3 or February 5 because I will be attending the annual meetings of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. In lieu of lecture, you will be given an assignment to complete out of class. The details regarding the assignment will be given to you in class. The due date for this assignment is the beginning of lab on Thursday February 7. This assignment is worth 100 points.

Policy on Missing a Deadline
General Policy
It is vital that you regularly assess your knowledge of the material presented in this course if you want to accomplish the course learning goals. For this reason, every assessment must be completed by the date and time listed in the course schedule and in Blackboard to receive full credit. You may complete any of the weekly reading/study assessments or course entry tasks after their due date; however, late assignments will receive an automatic 50% reduction in their score. The deadline to submit late assignments for partial credit is May 3 at 11:59 pm.

Exams must be completed within the time frame listed in the course syllabus, the course schedule, and on Blackboard; that is, by the end of the week that they are assigned (Sunday at 11:59 pm). Students will not generally be allowed to access an exam once the deadline is passed.

Special circumstances may warrant an extension on the deadline for any assignment or exam. Please see the policy on requesting extensions or changes in due dates for more information.

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.

**Policy on Missing a Due Date**

It is vital that you regularly assess your knowledge of the material presented in this course if you want to accomplish the course learning goals. For this reason, every assignment must be completed by the date and time announced in class, on Blackboard, and in MyLab to receive full credit. You may complete any of the assignments or course entry tasks after their due date; however, late assignments will receive an automatic 50% reduction in their score. The deadline to submit late assignments for partial credit is May 3 at 11:59 pm.

Special circumstances may warrant an extension on the deadline for any assignment. Please see the policy on requesting extensions or changes in due dates for more information.

**Requesting an Extension or Change in a Due Date**

As you progress through the course you may find yourself faced with a situation that prevents you from accessing and submitting an assignment by the given due date, or taking an exam during the scheduled exam period. When these circumstances occur, you may contact me to request an extension. When you request an extension please provide an explanation for why you will miss the due date or exam period, why the circumstance cannot reasonably be avoided, and an estimate for when you expect to complete the assignment or exam.

If you know beforehand that you will be unable to access and/or submit an assignment by the given due date or attend an exam during the scheduled period, you may request that its due date be changed. Once this change is made you will be expected to complete the assignment or exam by the new deadline, and will be subject to the same consequences for missing due dates that any other student faces.

Please submit all requests for extensions or a change in due dates to me by email so that there is a written record of the request. In addition, please note that you are not guaranteed an extension or change in due date that you ask for. I will consider each request based on their individual merits. Please also be aware that simply forgetting to complete a task is not generally a sufficient reason for an extensions; however, I usually give every student one “free”, no-questions-asked extension. Use this freebie wisely.

**Emailing the Instructor**

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 Blackboard your email might look like this:

Subject: Your Name and Class- Blackboard is down

Dear Ms. Ratliff,
I tried to log in to Blackboard to complete the homework 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]

**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.

**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
**Title IX at Angelo State University**

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

**Course Schedule**

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Chapter &amp; Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>January 13-19</td>
<td>Course Orientation</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 20-26</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Economic Decision Making</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January 27- February 2</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Comparative Advantage &amp; Trade</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>February 3-9</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Supply &amp; Demand</td>
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<td>February 10-16</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Elasticity</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>February 24- March 1</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Demand &amp; Consumer Behavior</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 2-8</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Perfectly Competitive Supply</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>March 16-22</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Efficiency &amp; the Invisible Hand</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Chapter 8: Imperfectly Competitive Markets</td>
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<td>April 6-12</td>
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<td>Chapter 14: Public Goods &amp; Tax Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 20-26</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Labor Markets</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>April 27- May 3</td>
<td>Catch-up Week</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
<td>May 4-7</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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**Policies on Deviations from the Published Schedule**

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 to the class via Blackboard and email. Once announced, any such change will supersede what is written in this syllabus or currently published online.

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\[i\] http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

\[ii\] http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/index.php