Course Syllabus
AGEC 4342 – Agribusiness Statistics

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 process and methods of statistical analysis. During this course students will learn how to describe data visually and numerically, how to evaluate the probability of an event, and how to test statistical hypotheses.

Meeting Time & Location
Lecture: VIN 139; 8:00-8:50 am, Monday & Wednesday
Lab: VIN 263; 1:00-2:50 pm, Thursday

Required Technology & Computer Skills
I rely on technology, such as Blackboard and Pearson’s MyLab Statistics platform to deploy course content. 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, and
  - The ability to view videos from various sources and that use various formats;
- Possess basic web navigation skills; and,
- Register for Pearson My Stat Lab during or before the third week of class.

Knowledge Prerequisites
There are no formal prerequisites for this course; however, I do expect that students taking this course have prior experience with some basic mathematic and algebraic concepts:

- Students should know how to find the mean, median, and mode of a set of numbers.
- Students should know how to compare numbers using ratios, proportions, and/or percentages.
- Students should know how to solve for an unknown variable in an equation.
- Students should know how take numerical information and plug it in to an equation to calculate a solution.

I will provide opportunities to review and practice these skills to any student who requests them. In addition, the ASU tutoring center is a great resource for help with basic math and algebra skills.

Textbook & Learning Platforms
- This course is based on the 5th edition of Fundamentals of Statistics: Informed Decisions Using Data by Michael Sullivan, III.
I will use the course Blackboard page to deliver course content such as lecture notes and lab exercises.

I utilize Pearson’s MyLab Statistics platform to deploy homework assignments and other course content. Registering for MyLab Statistics will cost about $150 if purchased through the bookstore. Registering for MyLab Statistics will provide you with an electronic copy of the text. Purchasing a hard copy is optional. Students can register for the correct section of MyLab Statistics via the course Blackboard page.

Course Learning Objectives

IDEA Objectives
At the end of the semester, you will be asked to fill out an IDEA survey in which you will assess this course in terms of its ability to meet certain objectives. Those objectives are:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories).
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
4. Learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information.

Agribusiness Program Objectives
As a part of the Agribusiness program, this course introduces students majoring in Agribusiness and students minoring in Agricultural Economics to the economic analysis of resource management issues. As such, students in these programs of study should expect to make progress in the following areas:

1. Essential Knowledge: Students demonstrate the correct use of the statistical process to analyze data.
2. Critical Thinking Skills: Given a data set and a research problem, students will define the correct null and alternative hypotheses, and correctly interpret the associated test of the null hypothesis.
3. Quantitative Reasoning Skills: Given a data set and a research problem, students will calculate the summary statistics necessary to estimate a confidence interval and perform a hypothesis test.

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

Course Grades
The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 1530-1700.00 points
- B = 1360-1529.99 points
- C = 1190-1359.99 points
- D = 1020-1189.99 points
- F = 0-1019.99 points

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

- Exams: 300 points
- Homework Assignments: 600 points
- Lab Assignments: 550 points
- Course Entry Tasks: 50 points
- SAEA Assignment: 100 points
- Attendance: 100 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 half of the course. The final exam will be cumulative.
- Each exam is worth 100 points.
- 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.

Homework Assignments
During the semester you will be required to complete 6 homework assignments; three for each half of the course. Each assignment is worth 100 points. 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 question in each assignment. Keep in mind that, although it is possible to earn full credit on a question through "trial and error", doing so will not help you accomplish the learning goals for the course.

Lab Assignments
During the course you will be required to complete 11 labs. These labs will give you an opportunity to get “hands on” with data and practice statistical procedures and calculations that you learn about in the lectures. Each lab will include a worksheet that you must turn in to me for a grade. Each worksheet is worth 50 points which you will earn by correctly calculating the statistics and interpreting the statistics featured in the lab.

Course Entry Tasks
You must complete two entry tasks on or before Sunday, January 26. The purpose of these tasks is to make sure that you are aware of the course goals and policies, that you are prepared to engage with the course materials, and that you are prepared to interact with the various technologies that we use this semester. The two 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; and,
2. Register for MyLab Statistics and complete a series of orientation exercises.
Completing these tasks will earn you a total of 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.

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.

**Attendance**
Students may earn up to 100 points for their attendance in class. The number of points that a student earns will be determined by the number of unexcused absences they accrue during the semester:

- Less than 3 unexcused absences- 100 points
- 3 unexcused absences- 90 points
- 4 unexcused absences- 80 points
- 5 unexcused absences- 70 points
- 6 unexcused absences- 60 points
- 7 unexcused absences- 50 points
- 8+ unexcused absences- 0 points

**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. In addition, students will incur one unexcused absence for every three classes that they arrive more than five minutes late to class.

**Definition of an Unexcused Absence**
I generally consider any absence that is not related to a University event or is not approved by me beforehand as unexcused; however, I am willing to consider excusing any absence as long as you inform me of the absence and explain why it cannot or could not be avoided. Please 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.

**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 extension; 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 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

**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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<tr>
<th>Week(s)</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>January 13-26</td>
<td>Course orientation &amp; Introduction to statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>January 27- February 9</td>
<td>Descriptive statistics (no class on February 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>February 10-16</td>
<td>Introduction to probability</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>February 17-23</td>
<td>The normal probability distribution</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>February 24- March 1</td>
<td>Exam 1 (review in lecture; take Exam 1 in lab)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 2-8</td>
<td>Estimating a population mean, pt. 1</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 9-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 16-22</td>
<td>Estimating a population mean, pt. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 23-29</td>
<td>Introduction to statistical hypotheses</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 30- April 5</td>
<td>Conducting a t test</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>April 6-12</td>
<td>The Chi-square distribution and test</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>April 13-19</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>April 20-26</td>
<td>Exam 2 (review in lecture; take Exam 1 in lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>April 27- May 3</td>
<td>Review for final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>May 4-7</td>
<td>Final exam on May 4 at 8:00 am</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 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 in class, via Blackboard, and by 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