Course Syllabus
AGEC 2317-D30 – Introduction to Agricultural Economics and Business

Instructor
Andrew P. Wright, Ph.D.
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Office: #219, Vincent Building
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 3:00-4:00 pm, 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
This is an online class. As such, it has no official meeting time or location.

Required Technology and Computer Skills
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.
- Register for McGraw-Hill Connect during or before 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’s learning platform, Connect, will provide you with an electronic copy of the text. I will use Connect to deploy weekly reading and study assignments. You will be able to access all course content, including content from Connect, through the course Blackboard page.

COVID-19 Policies

**Required Use of Facial Coverings**
As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [Facial Covering Policy](#) to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Course Delivery

This course will be deployed entirely online. The primary mode of instruction for this course will be reading and study assignments from the textbook and videos recorded by the instructor. Each week you will be given a set of tasks and assignments to complete (read a part of the textbook, watch a set of videos, answers a set of questions, etc.). You will have from Monday of each week until 11:59 the following Sunday to complete these tasks and assignments.

**Transitioning to Remote Learning**

Should the university transition to remote learning, I do not intend to make any changes to this course. Because this is already an online course, we should be able to maintain the course schedule as it has been planned.

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 (E QS)
- Demonstrate social responsibility (SR)

Progress toward these objectives will be assessed through additional assignments deployed during the semester. These assignments will not count toward a student’s grade; however, any student that does not complete these assignments may 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 1100. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- To earn an A, you must earn 990-1100 points
- To earn a B, you must earn 880-989 points
- To earn a C, you must earn 770-879 points
- To earn a D, you must earn 660-769 points

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

- Exams: 275 points
- LearnSmart Assignments: 150 points
- Course Video Assignments: 250 points
- End of Chapter Problems: 150 points
- End of Chapter Quizzes: 150 points
- Course entry tasks: 100 points
- Course exit task: 25 points

**Exams**

There are three exams scheduled for this course. 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 be deployed in week 6 (September 21-27) and covers the material introduced in weeks 2-5 (August 24- September 20).
- Exam 2: The second exam will be deployed in week 11 (October 26- November 1) and covers the material introduced in weeks 7-10 (September 28- October 25).
- Exam 3: The third exam will be deployed in week 14 (November 16-22) and covers the material introduced in weeks 12 & 13 (November 2-15).
• The exact day and time each exam is due will be posted to Blackboard and McGraw-Hill Connect.
• Each exam is open-note and timed.

LearnSmart Modules
LearnSmart modules are adaptive learning assignments that you complete as you read through the textbook. Each chapter in the text comes with a set of questions that you must answer as you read. To successfully complete a LearnSmart module, you must answer every question correctly. Any question you answer incorrectly will be added back into the question list until you provide the correct answer.

You will complete six of these modules during the course, with each module contributing 25 points to your final grade. The specific chapter modules you are required to complete are listed on the course Blackboard page along with their due dates.

Course Video Assignments
I will record and post a set of videos for you to watch during each week of the course, with the exception of exam weeks. Included within each video are 1-2 questions that you must answer. The answers to these questions can be found in the videos, so watch them carefully. Every week, if you watch each video and correctly answer every question, you will earn 25 points toward your final grade. Keep in mind that the number of videos you will need to watch and the length of these videos will vary from week to week.

End of Chapter Problem Sets
These are problem sets deployed in Connect that are related to the review questions at the end of each chapter of the textbook. You have 3 attempts to answer each question correctly and your correct answers are saved after each attempt. In addition, after each attempt you will have the opportunity to view feedback that you can use to correctly answer any questions for which you did not receive full credit. You will need to complete six of these problem sets during the semester, with each set contributing up to 25 points to your final grade. The specific problem sets you are required to complete are listed on the course Blackboard page along with their due dates.

End of Chapter Quizzes
As you complete the material related to each chapter of the text you will be given a short (20-25 question) multiple choice quiz related to what you should have learned. These questions are taken from the test bank provided by the authors of the textbook and should provide you with a preview of what each exam will look like. There are six of these quizzes planned for the semester and each quiz contributes 25 points to your final grade. You will have only one attempt per quiz; however, these quizzes are open-note. The quizzes you are required to complete are listed on the course Blackboard page along with their due dates.

Course Entry Tasks
During the first week of class, you will be required to complete a set of assignments designed to help you prepare to interact with Blackboard and the McGraw-Hill Connect platform. All five entry tasks must be completed by 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 23. These assignments include:
Course & Academic Policy Statement "Quiz": This is a four question (yes/no) assignment. Students must indicate that they understand the material presented in the course syllabus, as well as the material presented in the Angelo State Student Handbook regarding academic integrity and academic dishonesty. This task is worth 30 points, and you have unlimited attempts to complete this task.

Connect Orientation: A set of videos in McGraw-Hill Connect that shows students how to interact with the Connect platform (access SmartBook, access assignments, view feedback, etc.). This task is worth 15 points, and you have 3 attempts to answer each question correctly. Your correct answers are saved after each attempt, and after each attempt you will have the opportunity to view feedback that you can use to correctly answer any questions for which you did not receive full credit.

Economics Math Review: A set of tutorials and questions in Connect that are designed to help students review the math concepts and algebra skills that they will need to successfully complete the course. This task is worth 15 points, and you have 3 attempts to answer each question correctly. Your correct answers are saved after each attempt, and after each attempt you will have the opportunity to view feedback that you can use to correctly answer any questions for which you did not receive full credit.

Connect Graphing Tutorial: A set of tutorials and questions in Connect that are designed to teach students how to interact with graphs in homework assignments. This task is worth 15 points, and you have 3 attempts to answer each question correctly. Your correct answers are saved after each attempt, and after each attempt you will have the opportunity to view feedback that you can use to correctly answer any questions for which you did not receive full credit.

Economic Knowledge Pre-Test: A set of questions designed to assess the amount economic knowledge students possess prior to starting this course. This is a completion grade. Students will receive full credit (25 points) for attempting the assessment regardless of their actual score.

Course Exit Task- Economic Knowledge Post-Test
The final task that a student must complete to finish the course is the retake the Assessment of Economic Knowledge during Finals Week. The purpose of retaking the assessment is to measure how much a student has learned in this course. Taking this assessment is worth 25 points towards a student’s final grade. Once again, this is a completion grade. Students will receive full credit for attempting the assessment regardless of their actual score.

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 Tuesday November 24 at 11:59 pm.

Exams must be completed by the due date posted in Blackboard. 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.

**Angelo State University Policy on Religious Holy Days**

A student who thinks they might miss an assignment due date because they intend to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the due date. A student who misses a due date for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**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 or exam by the given due date. 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, 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 or exam by the given due date, you may request that its due date be changed. Once this change is made you will be expected to complete the assessment 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 Connect your email might look like this:

Subject: Connect is down

Dear Dr. Wright,

I tried to log in to Connect to complete this week’s LearnSmart assignment, but the program is down for emergency maintenance. Have any other students encountered this issue? Considering the circumstance, would you please extend the assignment’s due date?

Thank you,

[Your Name]
**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 by filling out this [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 Angelo State’s Title IX website.

### Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 17-23</td>
<td>Course Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>August 24-30</td>
<td>Introduction to Economic Decision Making</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>August 31- September 6</td>
<td>Introduction to Demand</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 7-13</td>
<td>Introduction to Supply</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>September 14-20</td>
<td>Markets &amp; Market Equilibrium</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>September 21-27</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>September 28- October 4</td>
<td>Utility &amp; Consumer Behavior</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>October 5-11</td>
<td>A Closer Look at the Demand Curve</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>October 12-18</td>
<td>Cost &amp; Production Concepts</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>October 19-25</td>
<td>Perfectly Competitive Supply</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>October 26- November 1</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>November 2-8</td>
<td>Market Efficiency</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>November 9-15</td>
<td>Imperfect Competition</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>November 16-22</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Finals</strong></td>
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### Policy 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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1 [www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf](http://www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf)
5 [https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/](https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/)