ECON 2302 - 030: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
Course Syllabus
Fall 2020

Section 020: 2:00p.m.-3:15p.m. MW Rassman Business 104
Section 030: 12:30p.m.-1:45p.m. TR Rassman Business 104

Instructor: Dr. Edwar E. Escalante
Email: eescalante@angelo.edu
Office: Rassman Business 102A
Office Hours (Online only): MW: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
TR: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM or by appointment

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At Angelo State University

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.

Textbook:

Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, Modern Principles: Microeconomics, Fourth Edition, Launchpad access

**The physical version of the textbook is strictly optional, but the online version is required. The Launchpad access (online code) will give you access to the electronic version of book also and required online material. **

Any additional readings will be placed on the course Blackboard site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the economic way of thinking and the fundamental tools of microeconomic analysis. Special emphasis is placed on how market and political
institutions influence how human respond to the scarcity of resources. The course makes heavy use of graphical analysis and presupposes knowledge of algebra.

**GRADING**

Grades will be assigned according to students’ final scores:

- 90+ A
- 80-89.9 B
- 70-79.9 C
- 60-69.9 D
- 59.9 or less F

Please do not ask me to raise your grade. I never – NEVER! – grant such requests. I am not in the business of giving grades: I merely report the grade that you earn.

Final scores are broken down into the following components:

- Quiz Online 50% (online)
- Exams 50%

**Hybrid Class:** Due to recent regulations this class will be hybrid. This means that I will be teaching face to face all classes and I will be recording all the sessions and uploading the videos on Blackboard. However, you will be required to attend physically only once a week. The other day that you are not attending physically you will have the option to see the session virtually. It will be asynchronous so you can watch the recorded session at your most convenient time. I do not take roll. You’re an adult. However, I strongly urge you to attend each and every class that you are able, from beginning to end.

**Online Quiz:** It should be done prior to the lecture. It will be about reading the book or videos. You need the launchpad access to complete these quizzes. For more information see the section on using Launchpad below. I will drop the two lowest grades from this category. They are usually 30 quizzes that you will take during the class.

**Exams:** There will two midterms and a final. The final will be comprehensive and count for two exam grades. Any student with an ‘A’ before the final exam can skip the final exam and receive an A for the course. If you take the final, I will drop the lowest 1 (of 4) exam grades.

**Extra Credit Quiz:** This pop extra quiz questions will be in class. Only two possible results: 100 or 0. They will replace your lower-than-100 scores in the online quiz at the end of the semester. Occasionally I will also assign extra quizzes online. They will serve as a study guide for the exams and if you get 100, they will replace any of regular online quizzes too at the end of the semester. They will be graded on Blackboard.

**Special Extra Credits:** These will be announced in class, if applicable. They will replace your online quizzes if they are lower than 100. However, I also place a lot of consideration on these credits at the end of the class to calculate Letter grades. We will
have three conferences during this semester. I strongly suggest you attend these events since they may define your grade at the end of the semester. They are VERY important. Given the current constraints they may require some reservation.

A grade of zero will be given for any exam or quiz missed. If the exam was missed for a University-excused reason (i.e., representing the University in a competition, a health emergency, or a family emergency) the student will have the opportunity to make up the exam or replace that grade with the final exam. Otherwise, the grade of zero will remain.

CLASSROOM RULES AND BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to show respect to classmates, instructors, and especially guest speakers. These are rules that I will enforce during this class:

1. Do not talk during class meetings. Talking is disruptive to the instructor and to your fellow classmates.
2. Do not arrive late to class and do not leave the classroom during class meetings. Exceptions may occur for medical emergency, physiological urgency or situations where prior instructor approval has been granted.
3. Do not use (including viewing of) communication devices (phones, iPad, etc) during class meetings. All electronic devices should be silenced during class meetings. This includes laptops.
4. Do not read/view other unassigned materials (newspapers, magazines, etc,) during class meetings.
5. Do not exhibit disruptive posture during class meetings. e.g. sleeping, slouching, laying, resting feet/head on furniture, etc.
6. Do not use notebook computers during class meetings unless prior instructor approval has been granted.
7. Do not bring/use food and/or tobacco products during classroom meetings unless prior instructor approval has been granted.

INFORMATION ON USING LAUNCHPAD FOR ECO 2302

Our textbook for this class is the Launchpad version of Cowen and Tabarrok, Modern Principles of Microeconomics, 4th edition. The online version includes both the text from the physical book and quizzes, exercises, etc. I recommend you start with the trial version for the first few weeks of class. You should be able to purchase access online or buy an access code in the bookstore.

Two parts of the course will be run on Launchpad, Reading grades and Homework. You will usually receive one grade in each category for every unit, and most units correspond to one chapter in the textbook.
READING ASSIGNMENTS ON LAUNCHPAD

Doing the readings ahead of time is vital for this course. Reading grades are either 100% (if you did the work) or 0% (if you didn’t). They are assigned by Launchpad. I am not able to reopen the assignment for particular cases. I strongly advise you do the assignments with proper anticipation. You will receive a reading grade (online quiz) for most units that we cover. Your reading quiz will usually be based on the Learning Curve assessment in Launchpad. Learning Curve lets you keep answer questions until you achieve a predetermined score, which will correspond to a 100. You should read the chapter before attempting the Learning Curve. Usually, you will also wait until after the first week to go ahead with the assignments.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS ON LAUNCHPAD

For each unit there will be a short quiz (online quiz also) over the material covered in the book and lectures. These are referred to as Graded Homework in Launchpad. They will be due after the last lecture in each unit. You should complete the quizzes by yourself. They are not a group activity.

**Homework and reading assignments are the online quizzes**

MR UNIVERSITY

The creators of your textbook also have an online version of their micro course at MRUniversity.com. Some videos are assigned as part of the course material, but there are many more on the site that will be helpful for any concepts you are struggling with.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

You are responsible for securing access to a reliable computer & network to do the assignments, such as a school computer lab. If you have a shaky internet connection at home, make time to do your work on campus.

Whenever you finish a Launchpad assignment, you should take a screenshot that indicates that the assignment is complete. Make sure to capture the date and time. Save these screenshots in a folder until the end of the semester. We will update you on your grades after each exam and before the final. If your grades do not come through correctly, email me (eescalante@angelo.edu) the appropriate screen shot so that I can correct the grade. No screen shot, no grade correction.

Here's how to take a screenshot on Windows

Here's how to take a screenshot on a Mac
# Tentative Outline and Associated Textbook Chapters

This is a tentative list of topics and readings. More precise reading assignments will be given over the course of the semester. The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Week 1 (Aug 17-20)</td>
<td>Big Ideas and Principles</td>
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<td>Power of Trade</td>
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<td>Week 2 (Aug 24-27)</td>
<td>Supply and Demand</td>
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<td>Week 3 (Aug 31-Sep 03)</td>
<td>Equilibrium and Dynamics</td>
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<td>Elasticity</td>
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<td>Week 4 (Sep 07-10)</td>
<td>Taxes and subsidies</td>
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<td>Price System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Sep 14-17)</td>
<td>Price System</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm 1</strong></td>
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<td>Week 6 (Sep 21-24)</td>
<td>Price Ceilings and Floors</td>
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<td>Externalities</td>
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<td>Week 7 (Sep 28-Oct 01)</td>
<td>Cost, Profit and Competition</td>
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<td>Week 8 (Oct 05-08)</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
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<td>Week 9 (Oct 12-15)</td>
<td>Price Discrimination</td>
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<td>Week 10 (Oct 19-22)</td>
<td>Oligopoly and Game Theory</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm 2</strong></td>
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<td>Week 11 (Oct 26-29)</td>
<td>International Trade</td>
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<td>Labor Markets</td>
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<td>Week 12 (Nov 02-05)</td>
<td>Public Goods</td>
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<td>Week 13 (Nov 09-12)</td>
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<td>Week 14 (Nov 16-19)</td>
<td>Economics, Ethics and Policy</td>
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<td>Review</td>
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<td>Nov 20 (Section 020)</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM @ 3:30 pm</td>
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<td>Nov 24 (Section 030)</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM @ 10:30 am</td>
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ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

We adhere to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook: Angelo State University's Academic Integrity Policy. The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center: Angelo State University's Writing Center Website.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

ASU 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 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 at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Located in the Houston Harte University Center 112

TITLE IX at ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF 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.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

If you have read the whole syllabus, let me tell you I am impressed. You are welcome to email me a photo of a llama in Machu Picchu and I will give you your first extra credit which will count as the first pop quiz.