LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The general purpose of this course is to develop basic concepts and competencies in international agricultural trade and logistics. Included are analyses of commercial policies (tariffs, export subsidies etc.), macroeconomic policies (exchange rates) and institutions disciplining agricultural trade policies (e.g. The World Trade Organization) that are of direct relevance to the US agri-food sector are emphasized.

After completing this course, student will:
1) Gain proficiency in the foundational tools and concepts of international trade
2) Understand major economic issues and problems facing food and fiber industries operating on an international scale.
3) Identify key drivers of logistic performance such as facilities, inventory, transportation, information, sourcing, and pricing, food safety and food quality in a food chain.
4) Describe the relationship and strategic importance of good logistic design, planning, and operations that characterize the food supply chains.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

The primary mode of instruction for this course will be in-person lectures and guided classroom activities; however, it is possible that some students will not be able to attend face-to-face sessions because of the COVID-19 virus. For this reason, AGEC 4306 will follow this structure:

- Monday: In-class lecture on the topic week’s topic (streamed & recorded using Collaborate),
- Wednesday: In-class activity (recorded and posted after class) or a second in-class lecture (streamed & recorded using Collaborate),
- Friday: In-class activity (recorded and posted after class) or a third in-class lecture (streamed & recorded using Collaborate)

Policy Regarding In-Class Attendance/Participation
Regular attendance in face-to-face sessions is a vital part of the learning process. I expect students enrolled in AGEC 4306 to attend every scheduled lecture and in-class activity.

How I Take Attendance

I will maintain a record of every student’s attendance for each day of class for those of you who are face to face. If I do not record that you were in class then you will be counted absent on that day.

Transitioning to Remote Learning
Should the need to transition to remote learning arise, I will develop and post a new syllabus that will describe the changes we will need to make. In the event that we transition to remote learning, the first thing that I will require of each student is an action plan that describes the steps you will take to keep up with the course in the new format. Please start thinking now about what you will do so that you are prepared.

**TEXTBOOK:**
The required textbook for this course is:
Supplementary text:
- Houck James, Elements of Agricultural Trade Policy, Waveland Press

References to additional supplementary materials will be made on a continuous basis. You are expected to READ ALL ASSIGNED MATERIAL IN ADVANCE OF CLASS. This is to ensure that you are able to actively engage with the instructor and your colleagues during lectures.

**Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class**
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 OUTLINE**

**MODULE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD FOOD SYSTEM AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE**
- Introduction to agricultural trade and the world food system
- Factors contributing to food prices
- Trends in international trade and international economic relations

**MODULE 2: ECONOMIC TOOLS FOR TRADE ANALYSIS**
- Microeconomic foundations of trade
- Consumer behavior: indifference curve analysis, demand, elasticities
- Producer behavior: Production possibilities frontiers, cost of production, supply
- Market equilibrium, consumer and producer surplus

**MODULE 3: THE BASIS AND GAINS FROM TRADE**
- Reasons for Trade
MODULE 4: TRADE POLICIES
Importers perspective
- tariffs and import quotas
Domestic policies with trade implications
- price supports and deficiency payments
Exporter perspective
- export subsidies and taxes
Spread-sheet models

MODULE 5: TRADE POLICY INSTITUTIONS AND PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS
- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) / World Trade Organization (WTO) and agriculture
- Agricultural Issues in the WTO
- Overview of Preferential trade agreements

MODULE 6: TOPICS IN AGRICULTURAL LOGISTICS
- Logistics and supply chain definition, main examples description
- Characteristics of agricultural food products: low ratio value/mass, value/volume, perishability
- Competitive strategies, main drivers, main barriers to overcome for an efficient logistics
- Measuring logistics costs and performance: logistic cost analysis, activity-based costs, ABC analysis

COURSE STRUCTURE:
In this course you will be provided with several avenues to apply the skills you acquire in class in order to increase your understanding of economic and natural resource issues:
- Lectures
Lectures will introduce economic concepts and tools for analysis. You will be expected to actively participate in lectures in several ways:
  - Your instructor will often pose questions for class discussion. Occasionally, we will break down into smaller groups to discuss questions.
  - At the beginning of every lecture, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about previous material covered.
- Readings
In addition to the recommended text, readings (news articles, journal articles, opinion pieces etc.) will be provided on the course website. The rationale behind the provision of these additional resources is to reinforce concepts introduced in lectures and provide additional insights. Readings will be made available on the course website.
- Individual Assignments
You will be given sufficient opportunities to practice course concepts learnt and tools introduced in lectures and readings. Due dates will be set as assignments are given.

- Group term paper and in-class presentation
You will be part of a group that will be required to write a term paper on a selected natural resource topic of your choice and do an in-class presentation. The purpose of the in-class presentation is to enable you hone your communication and public speaking skills. This will also be a good opportunity for you to obtain feedback from the instructor and your peers. Further instructions will be given in class.

- Exams
One midterm and one final exam will be given out of class on blackboard

**EVALUATION**

- **Assignments (15%)**
Assignments including homework, in-class activities, review papers and speaker reviews.

- **End of module test 30%**
At the end of each section of the course you be required to complete a test. If you complete all four tests, your best score out of the four end of module tests will be weighted 12%. The remaining test scores will be assigned equal weights of 6%. This weighting scheme will not be applied if you fail to sit for any of the tests.

- **Group Term Paper 20%**
The group term paper is designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts taught in class. The purpose of this paper is to address a real-world natural resource issue from an economic perspective using methods and models discussed in class. You are free to choose a topic of interest as a group but your topic must be approved by the instructor. Further instructions will be given in class. The in-class presentation of the term paper (and attendance) will be allocated 5% of the overall 20% allocable to the term project.

- **Final 30%**
The final will be comprehensive (cover all material covered in the entirety of the course). Further details will be provided.

- **Class Attendance and participation 5%**
This is a survey course; we will place a lot of emphasis on class participation. Accordingly, 5% of your course grade will be for participation.

In preparation for discussion, all assigned readings are required and each assignment must be completed by before class.

- **Participation Grades**

**Excellent participation (A):** Readings are read; you arrive to class on time and prepared; you respectfully contribute to class discussion every seminar; you actively ask questions; you are able to answer my questions; you meet with me about your papers in a timely manner if you require assistance; you hand in assignments on time.

**Good participation (B):** Readings are read; you arrive to class on time and prepared; you contribute to class discussion regularly; you actively ask questions when you need help with course material; you meet with me about your papers in a timely manner if you require assistance; you hand in assignments on time.
**Fair participation (C):** Readings are read; you arrive to class on time and prepared; you meet with me about your assignments if you need assistance; you hand in assignments on time.

**Poor participation (D/F):** You do not keep up with the readings; you arrive to class late and/or miss classes; you hand in assignments late; you do not contact me with questions or meet with me about your assignments when you need assistance; you do not meet assignment guidelines.

**IMPORTANT:** Remember that respectful participation also means not interrupting your others; and not attempting to dominate class discussion.

**Angelo State University 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.

**Student Conduct**

**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 and on listed on Blackboard. You may complete any of the study 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 November 20 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.

**WORKING IN GROUPS**
Students are encouraged to work in groups for specific group assignment as group learning represents a useful avenue to assimilate rudimentary concepts. Groups will be assigned in class and are expected to work together throughout the course of the term. Students are however, responsible for their own work and must be mindful of repercussions of copying or other acts of plagiarism (See university policies).

**TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY**

Laptops and iPads are permitted for use in class solely for the purpose of taking notes. Your participation grade will be docked for improper use. After the first warning, you will no longer be permitted to use a laptop/iPad in class.

Update your status before class starts.

**CELL PHONE POLICY**

Cell phones are to be turned off or left in your bag for the duration of class, except under exceptional circumstances (i.e.: if you are a caregiver/on call) and with prior permission of the instructor. This is a standard meeting courtesy in professional environments.

**BACKING UP YOUR WORK**

It is critical to back up your course notes, research notes, paper drafts, and final papers. Computer crashes do not excuse late work. It is best practice to keep all your lecture notes, research notes, outlines, and drafts to protect yourself should questions of academic integrity arise. Resist recycling course work until you receive your final grade.

**GRADING SCALE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 to 59.99%</td>
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**Contacting Ms. Ratliff**

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 Ms. Ratliff,

I tried to log in to Connect to complete the daily assessment, 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.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**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. [Title IX website](www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

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