Course Syllabus
AGEC 4335 – Risk Management

Instructor
Andrew P. Wright, Ph.D.
Email: andrew.wright@angelo.edu
Phone: (325) 486-6751
Office: #219, Vincent Building
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 3:00-4:00 pm, by appointment, or any time that I am in my office (just knock on the door).

Course Description
This course will introduce students to the methods and procedures used to identify, evaluate, and manage risk in agricultural production.

Meeting Time & Location
Time: 9:00-9:50 am MWF
Location: Vincent Building, Room 287

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:
  o A computer or mobile device with a reliable internet connection, and
  o The ability to view videos from various sources and that use various formats.

• Possess basic web navigation skills.

Expected Knowledge Prerequisites
There are no official prerequisites for this course; however, I expect that students enrolled in AGEC 4335 have prior experience with the mathematic and algebraic concepts taught in an introductory college algebra or finite mathematics course. I will be happy to help any students who feel like they are falling behind; however, it is the responsibility of the student to seek help.

Textbook
This course requires the following textbook:


In addition, I may assign reading from other sources including web sites, academic journals, and other books.
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\(^1\) 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
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 4335 will follow this structure:

- **Monday**: In-class lecture on the 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**: Blackboard Collaborate session with students who either cannot or choose not to attend class in person.

The purpose of the online Friday sessions is to give me a chance to interact with students who cannot or choose not to attend class in person, and to give these students a chance to ask me questions about the course material. These sessions are mandatory for students who cannot or choose not to attend class in person; however, any student that wishes to attend these sessions may do so.

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 4335 to attend every scheduled lecture and in-class activity; however, it may be unsafe for some students to attend class. For this reason, I will present and record every lecture period using Blackboard Collaborate. Any student who wishes to avoid face-to-face lectures may either watch lectures and in-class activities in real time or watch the recording once it is available. I will most likely record instructions for in-class activities in my office. These recordings will be available as soon as possible after the face-to-face group finishes the activity.

As stated above, any student who either cannot or chooses not to attend class in person must attend a weekly Collaborate session on each Friday of the semester at 9:00 am (this is the scheduled meeting time for the class). Furthermore, to help me separate students who are skipping class from those who are participating remotely, I ask that students who choose the remote option for any length of time to submit the following information to me:
1. A written request that they be exempt from attending class. This may be a formal request for an accommodation from Angelo State’s Office of Disability Services or as informal as a simple email requesting the exemption.

2. A written plan of action that describes how they will keep up with the course material. This plan needs to be very detailed and should show me that you are prepared to put the time in to make remote learning work.

It is fine for a student to change their decision to participate remotely or face-to-face. I simply ask that you keep me informed of your decision.

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.

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. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.
4. Learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information.

Program Objectives
As a part of the Agribusiness program, this course introduces students majoring in Agribusiness and students minoring in Agricultural Economics to the methods and procedures used to identify, evaluate, and manage risk in agricultural production. As such, students in these programs of study should expect to make progress in the following areas:

1. Essential Knowledge: Students will demonstrate knowledge of essential agricultural economics & agribusiness management principles.
2. Critical Thinking & Quantitative Reasoning: Students will gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize numerical information and observable facts to draw conclusions relevant to agribusiness issues.

Progress toward these objectives will be assessed using study assignments and exams.
Grading
Your final grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 700. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- To earn an A, you must earn 630-700 points
- To earn a B, you must earn 560-629 points
- To earn a C, you must earn 490-559 points
- To earn a D, you must earn 420-489 points

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

- Exams: 200 points
- Study Assignments: 400 points
- Orientation Assignments: 100 points

Exams
There are two exams scheduled for this course. Each exam is worth 100 points towards a student’s final grade.

The first exam will cover the material presented between August 24 and October 4. The exam will be made available online at noon on Friday October 9 and must be completed by midnight on Sunday October 11.

The second exam will cover the material presented between October 12 and November 15. The exam will be made available online at noon on Friday November 20 and must be completed by midnight on November 22.

Study Assignments
During the semester you will be given four study assignments, worth 100 points each, related to what we are discussing in class. The purpose of these assignments is to help you review with some of the key terms, ideas, and concepts we will discuss this semester. I will provide specific instructions for each assignment as we progress through the semester.

Orientation Assignment
During the first week of class, you will be required to complete one assignment designed to help you prepare to successfully complete this course. This assignment is a Course & Academic Policies Statement “Quiz” in which students will indicate that they have read and understand the content presented in the course syllabus. This assignment is worth 100 points towards a student’s final grade and must be completed by 11:59 pm on Friday, August 21.

Attendance Policies
NOTE: What is written here is my general policy on attendance. For attendance policies related to the COVID-19 virus, please read the information given on pages 2 & 3 of this syllabus.

Regular attendance in face-to-face sessions is a vital part of the learning process. For this reason, I expect students enrolled in AGEC 4335 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. If I do not record that you were in class then you will be counted absent on that day.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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: Blackboard is down
Dear Dr. Wright,
I tried to log in to Blackboard to submit the first study 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 Risk in Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>August 31 - September 6</td>
<td>Probability &amp; Risk</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 7-13</td>
<td>Probability &amp; Risk</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>September 14-20</td>
<td>Decision Analysis</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>September 21-27</td>
<td>Decision Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>September 28- October 4</td>
<td>Decision Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>October 5-11</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>October 12-18</td>
<td>Strategic Risk Management</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>October 19-25</td>
<td>Strategic Risk Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>October 26- November 1</td>
<td>Strategic Risk Management</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>November 2-8</td>
<td>Crop Insurance</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>November 9-15</td>
<td>Crop Insurance</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>November 16-22</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Finals</strong></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 www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf
ii http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
iii http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/index.php
iv https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?AngeloStateUniv&layout_id=1
v https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/