

## Course Syllabus

### AGEC 2317- Introduction to Agricultural Economics and Business

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#### Instructor

Andrew P. Wright, Ph.D.

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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 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

Time: 11:00 am- 12:15 pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Location: VIN 241

#### 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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](#)<sup>i</sup> 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 use a version of the “flipped” classroom model. I will assign a set of videos to watch and a portion of the text to read in preparation for each class session. In class, we will focus on applying the concepts to theoretical problems (i.e. end of chapter questions from the text) and real-world events. I expect students to keep up with these reading assignments and to take notes on their own so that they are ready to participate in the classroom discussion.

The primary mode of instruction for this course will be face-to-face instruction using 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, classroom sessions will be streamed and recorded using Blackboard Collaborate. Any student that wishes to participate in class remotely may choose to do so; however, any such student is still required to log in to Blackboard during each classroom session. 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. This will be a graded assignment, so please start thinking now about what you will do so that you are prepared.

### **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 (EQS)
- 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.

### **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 2317 to attend every scheduled lecture and in-class activity.

For now, a student's attendance in class will not be factored into their final grade; however, if regular attendance and participation in classroom session becomes an issue this will change. Should attendance

become a part of the grading rubric for the course, I will explain how grading will change in class, I will email these changes to the class, and I will publish a new syllabus that contains these changes.

### *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.

## **Grading**

Your grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 1000. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- To earn an A, you must earn 900-1000 points
- To earn a B, you must earn 800-899 points
- To earn a C, you must earn 700-799 points
- To earn a D, you must earn 600-699 points

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

- Exams: 300 points
- LearnSmart Assignments: 300 points
- Application Assignments: 300 points
- Course entry tasks: 75 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. Exams are not cumulative.

- Exam 1: The first exam is planned for Thursday March 4.
- Exam 2: The second exam is planned for Tuesday April 13.
- Exam 3: The third exam is planned for Tuesday May 11, which is during finals week.
- Each exam will be deployed online using Connect, and will be 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 50 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.

### **Application Assignments**

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 50 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.

### **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, January 31. Each task individually is worth 15 points for a total of 75 points.

- **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. 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.). 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. 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. 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 (15 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 application assignments after their due date; however, late assignments will receive an automatic 50% reduction in their score. LearnSmart modules may not be completed late for credit. The deadline to submit late assignments for partial credit is Sunday May 9 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.

## **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**

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

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#)<sup>ii</sup>.

### **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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#)<sup>iii</sup>. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Week	Dates	Topic
1	January 25-31	Course Orientation
2	February 1-7	Introduction to Economic Decision Making
3	February 8-14	Introduction to Demand
4	February 15-21	Introduction to Supply
5	February 22-28	Markets & Market Equilibrium
6	March 1-7	Exam 1
7	March 8-14	Utility & Consumer Behavior
8	March 15-21	A Closer Look at the Demand Curve
9	March 22-28	Cost & Production Concepts
10	March 29- April 4	Perfectly Competitive Supply
11	April 5-11	Finish Supply & Exam 2 Review
12	April 12-18	Exam 2 & Economic Profit
13	April 19-25	Market Equilibrium & Efficiency
14	April 26- May 2	Imperfect Competition
15	May 3-9	Price Discrimination & Exam 3 Review
Finals	May 11	Exam 3

### 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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<sup>i</sup> [www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf](http://www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>