Course Syllabus  
AGEC 2317 – Introduction to Agricultural Economics & Business

Professor  
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Office: VIN 226, Vincent Building  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 1:00-2:00 pm. I will be available over email and with current conditions, it is the best way to get in touch with me.

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.

Required Technology & Computer Skills  
This is an online class. As such, I will rely heavily on technology to communicate course content to students. 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,
  ○ The ability to view videos from various sources and that use various formats, and
● Possess basic web navigation skills;
● Register for Xanedu FlexEd Microeconomics on or before the first day of class; and students will need to pay to register for Xanedu FlexEd.

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 mathematical 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 at the beginning of the course.

Textbook & Learning Platforms  
● This course is based on the Openstax Microeconomics 2e. When you sign up for Xanedu FlexEd, you will be able to download a pdf of the text chapters and read the book online.  
● I will use the Xanedu FlexEd platform to deploy reading assignments, application/study assignments, and extra credit assignments.
You will be able to access all course content, including XanEdu FlexEd Microeconomics, through the course Blackboard page.

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 daily application/study assignments.

Core Student 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 using exams and homework assignments.

Grading
Your grade will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 890. The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 810-890 points
- B = 730-809 points
- C = 640-729 points
- D = 560-639 points
- F = 0-559 points

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

- Exams: 400 points
- Homework: 400 points
- Course Entry Tasks: 90 points
Exams
There are four midterm exams scheduled for this course.

- Each midterm exam will focus on one week’s worth of material. The final exam will be cumulative.
- Each week, a midterm exam will be made available on Friday at 8:00 am. You will have until the following Sunday at 5:00 pm to complete each midterm. The last exam is the exception because it will land on July 4th so I will give the class until the following Wednesday, July 7th to complete this exam.
- Every exam will be timed
- Each exam is worth 100 points.

Homework
During the course you will be required to take 4 homework assessments; one for each week, Monday-Friday. Each assessment is worth 100 points and must be completed by 11:59 pm on the Friday of the week. The purpose of these assessments is to give you a chance to determine what you do and don’t understand about the week’s topics.

Course Entry Tasks
You must complete two entry tasks on or before Monday, June 7th. The purpose of these tasks is to make sure that you are aware of the course goals and policies, and that you are prepared to interact with the various technologies that you will be using in the course before you actually need them. The Three tasks you must complete are:

1. Read the syllabus, review the course policies, review Angelo State’s policies regarding academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and complete a short quiz over this information;
2. Register for XanEdu FlexEd Microeconomics;
Completing all of these tasks will earn you 90 points toward your final grade, 45 points each. These points are largely effort-based; as long as you successfully complete each task you should earn full credit.

Extra Credit
To earn extra credit during the course you will have the opportunity to complete 3 discussion topics in XanEdu FlexEd. Each discussion topic that you complete is worth 10 points.

You may complete these modules at any time before 5pm on July 9th to earn the extra credit.

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 daily assessment must be completed by the date and time listed in the course schedule to receive full credit. You may complete daily assessments
after their deadline; however, late assessments will receive an automatic 50% reduction in their score. The deadline to submit late assessments for partial credit is July 2 at 5pm.

Exams must be completed within the time frame listed in the course schedule; that is, between 8am on Friday and 5pm on Sunday of the given week. 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 an assessment or exam. Please see the policy on requesting extensions or changes in due dates for more information.

**ASU 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.

**Requesting an Extension on 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 assessment or exam by the given deadline. When these circumstances occur, you may request an extension by emailing me. When you request an extension please provide an explanation for why you will miss the deadline, why the circumstance cannot reasonably be avoided, and an estimate for when you expect to complete the assessment or exam.

If you know beforehand that you will be unable to access an assessment or exam 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 deadlines that all other students face.

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.

**Contacting Dr. 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 and punctuation. For example, if you are experiencing a difficulty logging into XanEdu your email might look like this:

Subject: XanEdu is down
Dear Dr. Ratliff,
I tried to log in to XanEdu to complete the homework, but it seems the program is down for emergency maintenance. Have any other students encountered this issue? Considering the circumstances, 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.

**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.¹

**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].² 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

Course Schedule
A detailed schedule of course topics, including the due dates for all assessments and exams, are provided to students on the course website in Blackboard.

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.