

# AGEC 4351

## Land and Natural Resource Economics

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### Instructor: Dr. English Ratliff

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Office: VIN 226

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 1:00pm-3:00pm

## Course Information

### Course Description

Economic analysis of natural resource misallocation including property rights and common property resources, externalities, and public good problems. Consideration is given to the equity and efficiency implications of public policies to direct the use of energy resources, minerals, water, and forests.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- explain how all elements of sustainability, including but not limited to economic, environment and society, applies globally and within everyday life.
- apply the fundamental concepts and elements of natural resource economics issues to real life problems.
- demonstrate the uses of economics in the area of natural resources.
- explain how natural resource economics applies within a global economy and everyday life.

### Course Delivery

Learning outcomes will be measured by three exams, chapter homework, and a final research paper.

## **Texts and Materials**

Natural Resource Economics: The Essentials, 1<sup>st</sup> edition Routledge, Inc., 2019, Tietenberg

## **Communication**

- I have an open-door policy, so if I am in you are welcome to stop by and ask questions. However, you are welcome to email me, and I will try to get back with you in 24 hours. If it is an emergency, make sure to email me as soon as possible so we both have a record. Since everyone has classes throughout the day, it is best to schedule an appointment to make sure that I'm in. If you make an appointment, please email me if you need to cancel it.
- My classes: MWF 8:00 and 10:00, TTH 9:30
- 1 hour before class I am prepping for class, which means I may not be able to sit down and answer questions; however, if it is a quick question, that usually is not a problem.

## **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. For example, if you are experiencing a difficulty logging into Blackboard your email might look like this:

Subject: Blackboard is Down

Dear Dr. Ratliff,

I tried to log in to Blackboard to complete the homework, 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.

## **Grading**

### **Evaluation and Grades**

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Points per Assessment</b>
Homework	10
In-Class Quiz	5
Exams	100
Final Research Paper	100
Pre-Sustainability Write Up	9
Post-Sustainability Write Up	12

Your grade = your total points / total points possible

## **Grading System**

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 90.00-100 points
- B = 80.00-89.99 points
- C = 70.00-79.99 points
- D = 60.00-69.99 points
- F = 0-59.99 points

## **Assignment and Activity Descriptions**

### **Exams**

See tentative schedule for exam times. There will be three exams based on the material that is covered in those weeks indicated by the tentative schedule.

Make-up exams will be given if 1) The instructor is informed prior to the exam **and** 2) the student can provide information (doctor's note, ect...) about why the absence could not be avoided. The test must be made up within one week or it will be a zero.

### **Homework**

Homework will be assigned at the end of each chapter we cover.

### **Final Research Writing Assignment**

At the end of the semester, you will be tasked with writing a research assignment on a natural resource topic of your choice. A rubric will be posted as well as instructions.

There will be writing workshop days where you will be expected to bring in what you have written so far so changes can be made during these workshops.

### **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 listed on Blackboard. You may complete any of the assignments 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 Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59 pm.

## **General Policies Related to This Course**

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)<sup>2</sup>

### **Academic Integrity**

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>3</sup>

### **Accommodations for 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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>4</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

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)<sup>5</sup> for more information.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>6</sup> in the Student Handbook. 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. 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. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>7</sup>

## **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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)<sup>8</sup> for more information.

## **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 Miller, J.D.  
Special Assistant to the President and Title IX Coordinator  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-486-6357  
[michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

**You may also [file a report online](#)<sup>9</sup> 24/7.**

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, visit the [Title IX website](#).<sup>10</sup>

## Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may require significant changes in course delivery and content on potentially short notice.

# Scheduled Chapters to be Covered

Ch. 1 Visions of the Future

Ch. 2 The Economic Approach: Property Rights, Externalities, and Environmental Problems

Ch. 3 Evaluating Trade-Offs: Benefit-Cost Analysis and Other Decision-Making Metrics

Ch. 4 Valuing the Environment: Methods

Exam 1

Ch. 5 Dynamic Efficiency and Sustainable Development

In-class activity on Sustainability as well has homework

Ch. 6 Depletable Resource Allocation: The Role of Longer Time Horizons, Substitutes, and Extraction Cost

Ch. 7 Energy: The Transition from Depletable to Renewable Resources

Ch. 8 Recyclable Resources: Minerals, Paper, Bottles, and E-Waste

Exam 2

Ch. 9 Water: A Confluence of Renewable and Depletable Resources

Ch. 10 A Locationally Fixed, Multipurpose Resource: Land

Ch. 11 Storable, Renewable Resources: Forests

Exam 3

**Final Research Paper is due Thursday Dec. 9, 2021 (The day of the final)**

# Course Schedule

## Tentative Schedule: Updated Last 08/09/2021

Date	Readings Before Class	HW Due Date	Group Work
24-Aug	Syllabus / Ch. 1		
26-Aug	Ch. 1		
31-Aug	Ch. 2		
2-Sep	Ch. 3		
7-Sep	Ch. 3 / 4		
9-Sep	Ch. 4/ Review	Ch. 3	
14-Sep	Review	Ch. 4	
16-Sep	Exam 1		
21-Sep	Ch. 5 Sustainability Activity		
23-Sep	Ch. 5		
28-Sep	Ch. 6	Ch. 5	
30-Sep	Ch. 6/7		
5-Oct	Ch. 7	Ch. 6	
7-Oct	Ch. 7/8		
12-Oct	Ch. 8	Ch. 7	
14-Oct	Ch. 8/ Review	Ch.8	
19-Oct	Exam 2 ???		
21-Oct	Ch. 9		
26-Oct	Ch. 10	Ch. 9	
28-Oct	Ch. 10		
2-Nov	Ch. 11	Ch. 10,	
4-Nov	Ch.11		
9-Nov	Review/ Research Question	Ch. 11	Assign Groups
11-Nov	Exam 3 ???		
16-Nov	Writing Workshop		Research Question
18-Nov	Writing Workshop	Ch. 12	
23-Nov	Writing Workshop	Ch. 15	Draft of Intro-Lit. Review



25-Nov	Thanksgiving	
30-Nov	Writing Workshop	Peer Reviews
2-Dec	Writing Workshop	Draft of Final
Final Paper due	Thursday 12/9	At Midnight

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance->

[of](#)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>