

ECON 2302: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

Course Syllabus

Fall 2021

Section 020: 2:00p.m.-3:15p.m. TR Rassman Business 103

Instructor: Dr. Edwar E. Escalante

Email: eescalante@angelo.edu

Office: Rassman Business 102A

Office Hours: MW: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

T: 3:15 PM – 5:30 PM

R: 3:15 PM – 4:15PM or by appointment

BOOK:

Levitt, Steven, and Dubner, Stephen, *Freakonomics, Revised and Expanded Edition* (Required)

TEXTBOOK:

Armen A. Alchian and William R. Allen, *Universal Economics* (Optional)

This book can be obtained for free online: <https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/universal-economics>

Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, *Modern Principles: Microeconomics*, Fourth Edition (Optional)

Any additional readings will be placed on the course Blackboard site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the economic way of thinking and the fundamental tools of microeconomic analysis. Special emphasis is placed on how market and political institutions influence how human respond to the scarcity of resources. The course makes heavy use of graphical analysis and presupposes knowledge of algebra.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned according to students' final scores:

90+	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
59.9 or less	F

Please do not ask me to raise your grade. I never – NEVER! – grant such requests. I am not in the business of giving grades: I merely report the grade that you earn.

Final scores are broken down into the following components:

Quiz	50%
Exams	50%

Quiz: Quiz will be in class once a week. It will be about the assigned chapter of the book *Freakonomics*. Quizzes will have only three possible results: 0, 50 and 100. There will be Twelve (12) quizzes during the semester. At the end of the semester, I will drop the two HIGHEST scores. Each quiz will be at the beginning of the class -most of the time. Your final Quiz grade will be the average.

Exams: There will two midterms and a final. The final will be comprehensive and count for two exam grades. I will drop the lowest 1 (of 4) exam grades. The average of the remaining three exam grades will be the final exam grade. These exams will be on blackboard (at least one of them). Each exam will last two hours. Exams will be available no more than 6 hours from the time they were released. An email will notify the student when the exam is available on Blackboard.

Extra Credit Quiz: This can be pop extra quiz questions in class. Only two possible results: 100 or 0. They will replace your lower-than-100 scores in the quiz grades at the end of the semester. Occasionally I will also assign extra quizzes online. They will serve to evaluate your understanding of the material and the videos assigned. They will be graded on Blackboard.

Special Extra Credits: Each credit (100) will replace any of your quizzes if they are lower than 100 at the end of the semester. I place a lot of consideration on these credits at the end of the class to calculate Letter grades and round up. We will have three conferences during this semester. I strongly suggest you attend these events since they may define your grade at the end of the semester. They are VERY important. Given the current constraints they may require some reservation.

<i>Bob Lawson</i>	<i>September 01, 5:30pm</i>
<i>Jason Brennan</i>	<i>September 29, 5:30pm</i>
<i>Matt Ridley</i>	<i>November 03, 5:30pm</i>

A grade of zero will be given for any exam or quiz missed. If the exam was missed for a University-excused reason (i.e., representing the University in a competition, a health emergency, or a family emergency) the student will have the opportunity to make up the exam or replace that grade with the final exam (that is why I double that grade). Otherwise, the grade of zero will remain. Final class grades will be posted in Rampart only.

If for some reason you disagree with any grades reported. I could reevaluate the examination. If disagreement remains Dr. Bryan Cutsinger may evaluate your exam, but I will use the score he reports even if it is a lower score.

Covid-19: If any student feels symptoms it should get tested as soon as possible. If I receive confirmation from students' affairs office that the student has tested positive, I will not count the quizzes the student has missed due to quarantine.

COMMUNICATION

The easiest and fastest way to communicate is by email (eescalante@angelo.edu). I encourage a professional behavior on this matter to your professor and fellow classmates. Establishing a communication with your professor is not a colloquial text to a friend. Given the academic environment and the professional purpose of the class I **ONLY** respond emails that come with a proper salutation: Dr. Escalante or Professor Escalante.

CLASSROOM RULES AND BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to show respect to classmates, instructors, and especially guest speakers. These are rules that I will enforce during this class:

1. Do not talk during class meetings. Talking is disruptive to the instructor and to your fellow classmates.
2. Do not arrive late to class and do not leave the classroom during class meetings. Exceptions may occur for medical emergency, physiological urgency or situations where prior instructor approval has been granted.
3. Do not use (including viewing of) communication devices (phones, iPad, etc.) during class meetings. All electronic devices should be silenced during class meetings. This includes laptops.
4. Do not read/view other unassigned materials (newspapers, magazines, etc.) during class meetings.
5. Do not exhibit disruptive posture during class meetings. e.g. sleeping, slouching, laying, resting feet/head on furniture, etc.
6. Do not use notebook computers during class meetings unless prior instructor approval has been granted.
7. Do not bring/use food and/or tobacco products during classroom meetings unless prior instructor approval has been granted.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE AND ASSOCIATED TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS

This is a *tentative* list of topics and readings. More precise reading assignments will be given over the course of the semester. The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content.

Date	Topic	Chapter Alchian/Allen**	Chapter Freakonomics *
Week 1 (Aug 23-26)	Big Ideas and Principles	1-3	Introduction
Week 2 (Aug 30-Sep 02)	Gains from Exchange	4-5	1
Week 3 (Sep 06-09)	Exchange and Demand	5-6	2
Week 4 (Sep 13-16)	Equilibrium and Elasticity <i>NO classes on 9/16</i>	7-8	3
Week 5 (Sep 20-23)	Taxes and Subsidies	9	
	--Midterm 1 on 9/23--		
Week 6 (Sep 27-30)	Markets and Prices	10-11	4
Week 7 (Oct 04-07)	Shortages and Surpluses	12	5
Week 8 (Oct 11-14)	Externalities	13	6
Week 9 (Oct 18-21)	Public Goods	13	Bonus Matter
	Profit Maximization		
Week 10 (Oct 25-28)	Profit Maximization	16	
	--Midterm 2 on 10/28--		
Week 11 (Nov 01-04)	Monopoly	19	Selected Columns
Week 12 (Nov 08-11)	Price Discrimination	20	TBD
Week 13 (Nov 15-18)	--NO CLASS— (Blackboard Assignment TBD)		
Week 14 (Nov 22-25)	--NO CLASS— (Thanksgiving)		
Week 15 (Nov 29-Dec 02)	Economics, Ethics and Policy		TBD
Dec 07 (Section 020)	FINAL EXAM @ 1:00 pm – 3:00pm		

***You should read this chapter before the class because the quiz will be about that chapter.**

****The lectures will be based on these chapters.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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

We adhere to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook: Angelo State University's Academic Integrity Policy. The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University's Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. 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. We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. 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 via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center: Angelo State University's Writing Center Website.

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. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Located in the Houston Harte University Center 112

TITLE IX at ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building,
Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)

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.

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.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

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