

Course Syllabus

AGEC 2317 – Introduction to Agricultural Economics and Business

Instructor

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Office Location: #219, Vincent Building

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 2:30-3:30 pm, by appointment, or at any time that I am in my office.

Feel free to knock if the door is closed.

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: 11:00-11:50 am; Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Location: Vincent Building, Room 287

Prerequisite or Co-Requisite Courses

There are no prerequisite courses for a student to complete before enrolling in AGEC 2317, nor are there any co-requisite courses that a student must be enrolled in at the same time. That said, I do expect that student enrolled in AGEC 2317 have prior experience with the mathematic and algebraic concepts and skills taught in an introductory college algebra or finite mathematics course.

Prerequisite Skills

The mathematic and algebraic skills that a student should possess before enrolling in AGEC 2317 include:

- The ability to calculate and interpret the ratio of two values;
- The ability to calculate and interpret the slope of a line;
- The ability to solve for an unknown variable in an equation;
- The ability to take given numerical information, and an equation, calculate a solution.

I provide an opportunity to review and practice these skills as a graded assignment during the first week of the course.

The technology and computer skills that a student should possess before enrolling in AGEC 2317 include:

- The ability to access and navigate Internet websites.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Word.
- The ability to convert a document created in Word or a similar program into a .pdf file.
- The ability to upload a document to the course website in Blackboard.

Students should be aware that documents created using Pages will not display correctly in Blackboard. I will consider any work submitted to Blackboard with a .pages extension as incomplete. Such work will receive a grade of zero until it is resubmitted in a readable format and will be subject to any applicable late penalties.

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. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Agribusiness Program Objectives

As a part of the Agribusiness program, this course introduces students majoring in Agribusiness and students minoring in Agricultural Economics to the basics of economic thought and analysis. As such, students in these programs of study should expect to make progress in the following areas:

1. Essential Knowledge: Students will demonstrate the correct use of microeconomic principles to draw conclusions about market outcomes.
2. 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.
3. Quantitative Reasoning 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. Progress toward these objectives will be assessed using exams and 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 an essay assignment.

Course Delivery

This is a face-to-face course with online components that students are expected to access in [Blackboard](#).¹ Online components include lecture materials such as PowerPoint slides made available in Blackboard, reading assignments deployed via the McGraw-Hill Connect Platform, and application assignments deployed using McGraw-Hill Connect. To successfully complete this course, students must have reliable and consistent access to its online components.

Required Text and Technology Requirements

This course is based on the 8th edition of *Principles of Microeconomics* by Frank, Bernanke, Antonovics & Heffetz.

To successfully complete this course, students need to purchase access to McGraw-Hill's learning platform, Connect. Doing so will provide you with an electronic copy of the text, and I will use Connect to deploy reading and study assignments.

I will provide instructions for purchasing access to Connect during the first week of class. Once you have purchased access to Connect, you will be able to access all course content, including content from Connect, through the course Blackboard page.

Grading

Your final grade in this course will be calculated based on the number of points you earn out of 900. 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
- Smart Book Assignments: 150 points
- End of Chapter Assignments: 300 points
- THECB Assessment: 100 Points
- Course entry tasks: 100 points
- Course exit task: 50 points

There are 300 points that are entirely effort based in the course. For this reason, I will not round an individual student's grade up to the next letter.

Assignment Descriptions

Exams

There are four exams scheduled for this course, three midterm exams and a final exam. Each exam is worth 100 points towards a student's final grade. The final exam is optional and will replace a student's lowest midterm exam score if they choose to take it. If a student is satisfied with their course grade at the end of the semester, they may opt out of the final. Each midterm exam will focus on one unit of material. The final exam will be cumulative and will include material from each unit of the course. The planned dates for these exams can be found in the course schedule published at the end of this syllabus and on the course page on Blackboard.

Smart Book Assignments

Smart Books 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 25 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.

End of Chapter 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 complete each assignment and your correct answers are saved after each attempt. In addition, after your second attempt you will have the opportunity to view feedback that you can use to correctly answer any questions for which you have not yet received 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.

THECB Assessment

To assess student progress towards core curriculum learning objectives, students will be asked to complete an essay assignment in the second half of the semester. This assignment is worth 100 points towards a student's final grade and will be graded partially on the basis of effort and partially on the basis of the student's mastery of the four skills listed on page 2 of this syllabus. The essay, its due date, and the rubric that I will use to grade your work will be presented in class and made available on the course Blackboard page.

Course Entry Assignments

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 23. These assignments include:

- **Course & Academic Policy Compliance Statements:** 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. This task is worth 10 points, and 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 Smart Book, access assignments, view feedback, etc.). This task is worth 10 points, and you have 3 attempts to complete the assignment. Your correct answers are saved after each attempt, and after the second 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. This task is worth 10 points, and you have 3 attempts to complete the assignment. Your correct answers are saved after each attempt, and after the second 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. This task is worth 10 points, and you have 3 attempts to complete the assignment. Your correct answers are saved

after each attempt, and after the second 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.

- **Preliminary Assessment of Economic Knowledge:** 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 (60 points) for attempting the assessment regardless of their actual score.

Course Exit Assignment

The final task that a student must complete to finish this course is to take a Final Assessment of Economic Knowledge at the end of the semester. The purpose of retaking the assessment is to measure how much a student has learned in this course. Taking this assessment is worth 50 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.

Late Work 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 assignment must be completed by the date and time announced in class and on Blackboard. You may complete and submit any assignment after its due date; however, late assignments will receive up to a 50% reduction in their score. The deadline to submit late assignments for partial credit is May 8 at 11:59 pm.

Requesting an Extension or Change in 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. Please be aware that I will not usually accommodate an illness without either documentation that a student has seen a doctor or an official letter requesting accommodation from the University.

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 extension; however, I usually give every student one "free", no-questions-asked extension. Use this freebie wisely.

Attendance Policies

General Policy

Regular attendance in lectures is a vital part of the learning process for a face-to-face course. For this reason, I expect students enrolled in AGEC 2317 to make every effort to attend every scheduled lecture and in-class activity.

I realize that there may be times when an absence from class is unavoidable. To help students who cannot attend class, I will stream and record each lecture session using Blackboard Collaborate. Students who cannot attend class are welcome to log in to Blackboard to follow the lecture remotely.

Students need to be aware that access to lecture recordings and any other lecture materials, such as PowerPoint slides, lecture notes, or handouts, is a privilege that I extend to you as the instructor. If students take advantage of this and collectively choose not to attend class, I will remove these items from Blackboard. It will then be the student's responsibility to work with their classmates to make up any notes missed during an absence.

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. If a student come in to class late, it is the student's responsibility to make sure I update the attendance roster for 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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 [Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)ⁱⁱ for more information.

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 a reading quiz, 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]

Additional Policies Related to This Course

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

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)ⁱⁱⁱ
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)^{iv}

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](#)^v (Page 97).^{vi}

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. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).^{vii} The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dr. Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
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](#)^{viii} for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity Statement](#)^{ix} 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, assignments, 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.

All work submitted by any student is subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).^x

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 Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [Incident Reporting Form](#)^{xi}

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit the [Title IX website](#).^{xii}

Information about COVID-19

Please refer to ASU's [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Updates](#)^{xiii} web page for current information about campus guidelines and safety standards as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All students are expected to perform a wellness screening prior to coming to setting foot on campus. Any student that is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should report their symptoms through the wellness screening app and then report to a COVID-19 testing location to be tested for the virus. Such students will be exempted from the requirement to attend class in person until they receive a negative test result. In addition, such students will be eligible to receive accommodations related to any exams or other in-class work they might miss while they are waiting for a test result or are quarantined.

Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification on potentially short notice based on developing circumstances. 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 is currently published online.

Course Schedule

Here is a summary of what we will cover this semester, along with the planned dates for exams:

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter
1	January 17-23	Course Orientation	None
2	January 24-30	What is Economics?	1
3	January 31- February 6	Supply & Demand	3
4	February 7-13	Supply & Demand	3
5	February 14-20	Supply & Demand	3
6	February 21-27	Exam 1	None
7	February 28- March 6	Consumer Behavior	5
8	March 7-13	Consumer Behavior; Production & Costs	5; 6
Spring Break	March 14-20	None	None
9	March 21-27	Production & Costs	6
10	March 28- April 3	Production & Costs; Exam 2	6
11	April 4-10	Economic Efficiency	7
12	April 11-17	Economic Efficiency; Imperfect Competition	7; 8
13	April 18-24	Imperfect Competition	8
14	April 25- May 1	Imperfect Competition; Exam 3	8
15	May 2-8	Prep for final exam	None
Finals	May 9-15	Final exam	None

Here is a summary of the Smart Book and end of chapter assignments planned for this course, along with their due dates:

Assignment	Due Date and Time
Chapter 1 Smart Book	11:00 am, January 24
Chapter 1 Problem Set	11:59 pm, January 30
Chapter 3 Smart Book	11:00 am, January 31
Chapter 3 Problem Set	11:59 pm, February 20
Chapter 5 Smart Book	11:00 am, February 28
Chapter 5 Problem Set	11:59 pm, March 13
Chapter 6 Smart Book	11:00 am, March 11
Chapter 6 Problem Set	11:59 pm, March 31
Chapter 7 Smart Book	11:00 am, April 6
Chapter 7 Problem Set	11:59 pm, April 17
Chapter 8 Smart Book	11:00 am, April 15

Assignment	Due Date and Time
Chapter 8 Problem Set	11:59 pm, April 28

ⁱ <https://blackboard.angelo.edu/>

ⁱⁱ <https://angelo.policystat.com/policy/10659368/latest/>

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

^{iv} <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>

^v <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=97>

^{vi} <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

^{vii} <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>

^{viii} <https://angelo.policystat.com/policy/10659448/latest/>

^{ix} <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=97>

^x https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php

^{xi} <https://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

^{xii} <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>

^{xiii} <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>