

Course Syllabus

AGEC 2317 – Introduction to Agricultural Economics and Business

Instructor

Andrew P. Wright, Ph.D.

Email: andrew.wright@angelo.edu

Phone: (325) 486-6751

Office: #219, Vincent Building

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00-10:00 am, 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.

Course Delivery

This course will be deployed entirely online in an asynchronous format. In other words, you will not meet with an instructor for a live lecture. Instead, you will log in to Blackboard to access study materials and assignments that I have put together to help you achieve the course learning objectives. These material will be made up of reading and study assignments from the text book and videos that I have recorded to supplement the text.

This course is being delivered in a three week mini-session. For this reason, you can expect to cover what would be one week of material each day of class. On these days, you will be given a set of tasks and assignments to complete (read a part of the textbook, watch a set of videos, answers a set of questions, etc.). You will have until the end of that day to complete the assigned tasks.

It is the student's responsibility to contact me with any questions about the material I ask you to cover each day.

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 the first three days 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 8th edition of *Principles of Microeconomics* by Frank, Bernanke, Antovics & Heffetz. Registering for McGraw-Hill's learning platform, Connect, will provide you with an electronic copy of the text. I will use Connect to deploy daily reading and study assignments. You will be able to access all course content, including content from Connect, 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 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.

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: 200 points
- End of Chapter Problems: 200 points
- End of Chapter Quizzes: 200 points
- Course entry tasks: 50 points
- Course exit task: 50 points

Exams

There are three exams scheduled for this course. Each exam is worth 100 points towards a student's final grade.

- Exam 1: The first exam will be deployed on December 22 & 23 and covers the material introduced on days 4-7 (December 16-21).
- Exam 2: The second exam will be deployed on January 3 & 4 and covers the material introduced on days 10-13 (December 27-30).
- Exam 3: The third exam will be deployed on January 11 & 12 and covers the material introduced on days 16-19 (January 5-10).
- Each exam is open-note and has a time limit on how long you may work on it.
- Once you begin an exam, you must finish it in a single sitting. If you quit the exam before you are finished, it will be automatically submitted for grading.

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 eight 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/times.

End of Chapter Problem Sets

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 before the assignment's due date/time 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 eight of these problem sets during the session, with each set contributing up to 25 points to your final grade. The specific problem sets you are required to complete along with their due dates are listed in the Course Content section of Blackboard and in the course calendar.

End of Chapter Quizzes

As you complete the material related to each chapter of the text you will be given a short (20-25 question) multiple choice quiz related to what you should have learned. These questions are taken from the test bank provided by the authors of the textbook and should provide you with a preview of what each exam will look like. There are eight of these quizzes planned for the semester and each quiz contributes 25 points to your final grade. You will have only one attempt per quiz; however, these quizzes are open-note. The quizzes you are required to complete along with their due dates are listed in the Course Content section of Blackboard and in the course calendar.

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 Monday, January 4. 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 SmartBook, access assignments, view feedback, etc.). This task is worth 5 points, and 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. This task is worth 5 points, and 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. This task is worth 5 points, and 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 (25 points) for attempting the assessment regardless of their actual score.

Course Exit Task- Final Assessment of Economic Knowledge

The final task that a student must complete to finish this course is to retake the Assessment of Economic Knowledge at the end of the course. 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.

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 objectives. For this reason, every assessment must be completed by the date and time listed in Blackboard. Furthermore, the condensed nature of the semester means that falling even one day behind means missing a week's worth of instruction in a regular semester.

For this reason, I will not accept late work from a student unless special circumstances warrant an extension or a change in the due date for an assignment or exam. Please see the policy on requesting extensions or changes in due dates for more information.

Angelo State University Policy on Religious Holy Days

A student who thinks they might miss an assignment due date because they intend to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the due date. A student who misses a due date for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

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/time. 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

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](#)ⁱ.

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](#)ⁱⁱ. 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

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

You may also file a report online 24/7 by filling out this [incident form](#)ⁱⁱⁱ.

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](#)^{iv}.

Course Schedule

Day(s)	Dates	Topic
1-3	December 13-15	Course Orientation
4	December 16	Introduction to Economic Decision Making
5	December 17	Introduction to Demand
6	December 20	Introduction to Supply
7	December 21	Markets & Market Equilibrium
8 & 9	December 22 & 23	Exam 1
10	December 27	Utility & Consumer Behavior
11	December 28	A Closer Look at the Demand Curve
12	December 29	Cost & Production Concepts
13	December 30	Perfectly Competitive Supply
14 & 15	January 3 & 4	Exam 2
16	January 5	Market Efficiency
17	January 6	Imperfect Competition
18	January 7	Externalities & Property Rights
19	January 10	Public Goods & Tax Policy
20 & 21	January 11 & 12	Exam 3
22 & 23	January 13 & 14	Final Assessment

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.

ⁱ <http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/index.php>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?AngeloStateUniv&layout_id=1

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