

**AEC 360.01W AGRICULTURAL LAW  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2014**

**Instructor:** Priscilla Argüello  
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**Office hours:** Tuesday 9:30-11:30 a.m.

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Textbook(s) Required:**

*Principles of Agricultural Law* by Roger A. McEowen and Neil E. Harl. Agricultural Law Press, Oregon, Fall 2014 Ed., 2014. (ISBN 0-9677856-0X)

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of concepts and terminology used in agricultural law and the legal system, and to apply them to real life situations. The students will learn sources of legal information and will be able to understand how legal principles may affect them, their families, farms, or businesses.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learn the basic concepts of agricultural law.
2. Gain knowledge of contracts, secured transactions, and negotiable instruments.
3. Learn the nature of cooperatives, their formation, and management.
4. Study possible business organizational methods and basic considerations.
5. Distinguish between the different types of bankruptcy, learn how to handle and file for appropriate bankruptcy, and the role of income taxation.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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This course consists of a series of assignments and examinations to assist the student in achieving the learning objectives for the course. Each week students are encouraged to work on assignments, discussions, and readings in preparation for weekly quiz and periodic exam.

Grading	Percent
Assignments, discussions & video summaries	15%
Quizzes	25%
Two announced examinations	40%
Final Exam	20%

**Grading Scale:**

Range	Grade
90-100.00	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
Less than 60	F

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

This course will be facilitated using eCollege. To get started with the course, go to: <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=welcome> You will need your CWID and password to log into the course.

If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password contact the Help Desk. The HelpDesk can be reached by sending an email to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or by calling 1-866-656-5511.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT****Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Email is the best way to contact me.

Office hours for this class are Tuesday 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### COURSE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

**Exams and quizzes:** No makeup exams or quizzes will be offered. A grade of zero will be assigned to any missed exam or quiz. Make sure you have internet access ahead of time. Make sure your laptop battery is fully charged. Exams and quizzes will be administered through eCollege. Exams and quizzes are to be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date. Exams and quizzes will be timed.

**Assignments:** Assignments will involve agricultural law principles and emphasize their importance and applicability to the farm, agribusiness, and the agricultural industry. Assignments will be selected from the book or provided by the instructor. Assignments (short answer questions, IRAC case analysis, discussion, and video summaries) will become active the first day of the week they are due and are to be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date. Students will be graded on the quality and timeliness of their submissions (see assignment rubric).

**Class preparation:** Students should read content and complete course assignments prior to deadlines. Students are expected to actively participate in online discussions and submit assignments in-time. Students are also expected to complete quizzes and exams on the date and time allotted. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and understand all previously covered material prior to each new chapter.

### UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

**General Policies for Classes:** All students enrolled at the University will follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Student's Guide Handbook, Rules and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct at <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/studentAffairs/13.02.99.R0.06StandardsOfStudentConduct.pdf>

**Academic Integrity:** In this course the need for collaboration is undeniable if you are to excel, even in cases of individual work. You are encouraged to seek the help and advice of others. However, you **must** do your own work. My personal policy, which will guide this course, is: I trust you to behave honestly

and ethically in all circumstances. Please ask me if you have questions about what is proper and what is not.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Instructors “are expected to uphold and support student integrity and honesty by maintaining conditions that encourage and enforce academic honesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.” See 13.99.99.R0.10 Academic Honesty at <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/13.99.99.R0.10AcademicHonesty.aspx>

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Week of	Subject/Material Covered	Assignments Due By 11:59 PM on last day listed
Week 1 Aug.25-31	Syllabus eCollege Tutorial	Assignment Quiz
Week 2 Sept.1-7	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Agricultural Law and the Legal System §1.01-§1.06	Assignment Quiz
Week 3 Sept.8-14	Chapter 2 – Contracts §2.01-§2.07	Assignment Quiz Video Summaries
Week 4 Sept.15-21	Chapter 2 – continued §2.08 -§2.011	Assignment Quiz
Week 5 Sept.22-28	Exam: Chapters 1,2	Exam 1
Week 6 Sept.29-Oct.5	Chapter 3 – Secured Transactions §3.01-§3.02	Assignment Quiz Video Summaries
Week 7 Oct.6-12	Chapter 3 – continued §3.03-§3.05	Assignment Quiz
Week 8 Oct.13-19	Chapter 4 – Negotiable Instruments §4.01-§4.07	Assignment Quiz
Week 9 Oct.20-26	Chapter 10 – Cooperatives §10.01-§10.08	Assignment Quiz
Week 10 Oct.27-Nov.2	Exam: Chapters 3, 4, 10	Exam 2
Week 11 Nov.3-9	Chapter 9 – Business Planning §9.01-§9.08	Assignment Quiz
Week 12 Nov.10-16	Chapter 9 – continued §9.09	Assignment Quiz
Week 13 Nov.17-23	Chapter 5 – Bankruptcy §5.01-§5.07	Assignment Quiz
Week 14 Nov.24-30	Chapter 5 – Continued §5.08-§5.10	Assignment Quiz
Week 15 Dec.1-7	Exam: Chapters 9, 5	Exam 3

**Please Note:** The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as circumstances may dictate. All changes will be announced via eCollege or email.

**ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Understanding of Topic	Student clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information forcefully and convincingly.	Student clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information with ease.	Student seemed to understand the main points of the topic and presented those with ease.	Student did not show an adequate understanding of the topic.
Quality of Information	All information presented was clear, accurate and thorough. 5 or > sentences long.	Most information presented was clear, accurate and thorough. 4 sentences long.	Most information presented was clear and accurate, but was not usually thorough. 3 sentences long.	Information had several inaccuracies OR was usually not clear. 1-2 sentences long.
Use of Facts/Statistics	Every major point was well supported with several relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	Every major point was adequately supported with relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	Every major point was supported with facts, statistics and/or examples, but the relevance of some was questionable.	Every point was not supported.
Organization	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea (premise) and organized in a tight, logical fashion.	Most arguments were clearly tied to an idea (premise) and organized in a tight, logical fashion.	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea (premise) but the organization was sometimes not clear or logical.	Arguments were not clearly tied to an idea (premise).
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.