



# **Agricultural Law AEC 360 01W**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2017**

**Instructor:** Molly Brewer

**Office Hours:** Friday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

**Communication Response Time:** within 24 hours outside of office hours.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Textbook(s) Required:** Agricultural and Agribusiness Law An Introduction for Non-Lawyers, Theodore A. Feitshans

**Course Description:** Survey of law and legal decisions that impact agriculture including farm and preservation, water rights, pollution abatement standards, workers' rights, externalities, pesticide/insecticide regulation, product inspection, development of legislation, mineral rights and employer liability. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

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**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain at a layperson's level the roles of the three branches of government (legislative, judicial, and executive), the role of administrative agencies, and how they interact;
1. Identify the major federal agencies and some state agencies responsible for regulation of agriculture and agribusiness and explain how their jurisdictions overlap, complement, and conflict;
2. List and describe, at a layperson's level, the elements of the relationship between the states and the federal government;
3. Read and interpret judicial decisions, and identify the various parts of judicial decisions, on a layperson's level;
4. Develop a layperson's understanding of some of the major areas of agricultural law;

*Syllabus/schedule subject to change*

5. Analyze how economic policy shapes, restricts, or expands regulation of agribusiness and agriculture at a layperson's level; and
6. Demonstrate through clear and concise written and oral communication the ability to communicate legal needs and problems through the use of correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and word choice in written submissions.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional/Methods/Activities Assessments**

This course consists of a series of readings, assignments, and examinations to assist the student in achieving the learning objectives for the course. Assignments consist of short answer questions, analyses of judicial opinions, and short summaries of assigned videos. Students will be expected to participate in online discussions each week with the expectation that each student will contribute at least one thoughtful post and one meaningful response for each week's topic. Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis and students will be given 30 minutes to complete them. There will be three exams administered and one cumulative final exam at the conclusion of the course.

All course material will become active the first day of the week it is to be completed and all assignments must be completed by 11:59 pm on the day it is due.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Each week students are required to work on the assignments, participate in discussions, and complete the readings in preparation for weekly quiz and periodic exams.

## **GRADING**

COMPONENT	WEIGHT
Case Analyses	20%
Discussions	20%
Quizzes	20%
Exams	20%
Final Exam	20%

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

All student work will be graded according to the following rubric:

CATEGORY	100%	75%	50%	25%
Understanding of Topic	Student clearly understood the topic in depth and present information forcefully and convincingly.	Student clearly understood the topic and presented most information with ease.	Student seemed to understand the some main points of the topic and was able to present some information with ease.	Student did not show an adequate understanding of the topic.
Information	All information presented was clear, accurate, and thorough.	Most information was clear, accurate, and thorough.	Some information presented was clear and accurate but not thorough.	Information had several inaccuracies or was not clear.
Use of Facts	Every major point was well supported with several relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	Most major points were adequately supported with relevant facts, statistics, and/or examples.	Some major points were supported with facts, stats and/or examples but relevance was questionable.	Every point was not supported.
Organization	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea or premise and organized in a logical fashion	Most arguments were tied to and idea or premise and organized in a logical fashion.	Some arguments were clearly tied to and idea or premise but organization was not clear or logical.	Arguments were not clearly tied to an idea or premise.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The technology requirements can be found at:

[http://help.college.com/LS\\_Tech\\_Req\\_WebHelp/en-us/](http://help.college.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/)

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Internet Explorer 9.0 or 10. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)  
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset)  
[http://help.ecollege.com/LS\\_Tech\\_Req\\_WebHelp/en-us/#LS\\_Technical\\_Requirements.htm#Browset](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

- [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
- [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment

submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)  
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

### **Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information**

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx). <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

**You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).**

It is strongly recommended you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the "My Courses" tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

### **Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/) <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

**Accessing Help from within Your Course:** Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You then will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

**Note:** Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems.

### **Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio**

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

### **myLeo Support**

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu) or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

### **Learner Support**


Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success. [http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/)  
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## FREE MOBILE APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	<b>App Title:</b>	<b>iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone</b> <b>Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone</b>
	<b>Operating System:</b>	<b>iPhone</b> - OS 6 and above <b>Android</b> – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	<b>iPhone App URL:</b>	<a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8</a>
	<b>Android App URL:</b>	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsp_hone">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsp_hone</a>

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

## LEARNINGSTUDIO NOTIFICATIONS

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course.

Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can opt out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comment. Email is the best way to reach me.

Office hours for this course are Thursdays between 9:30 am and 11:30 am and will be conducted via email and telephone.

## **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 Pearson LearningStudio. 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 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.

**Class preparation:** Students should complete assigned readings and course assignments prior to deadlines. Students are expected to actively participate in online discussions and submit assignments on time. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and understand all previously covered material prior to each new chapter.

**Syllabus Change Policy:** The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor



to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)  
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **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**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library- Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

#### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

#### **Academic Honesty**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly

enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

*Cheating* is defined as:

Copying another's test or assignment

Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)

Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor

Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test

Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

*Plagiarism* is defined as:

Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement

Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment

If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Students should also reference the following link Criminal Justice web site for more information.

### **Attendance Policy**

While this is an online course, students are expected to 'attend class' and actively participate. Student participation/activity will be monitored by the professor. Students should plan to dedicate approximately 15-20 hours/week of time to this course, of which approximately 1 hour/week should be spent in the discussion board (reading posts and comments and conversing with others).

### **Drop Course Policy**

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to University policy should this become necessary.

### **Tenets of Common Behavior statement**

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook)

**Campus Concealed Carry statement**

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M- Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Subject/Material Covered</b>	<b>Due By 11:59 PM on last day listed</b>
Week 1 1/17 - 1/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 1 Understanding the U.S. legal system</li> <li>• Ch. 2 Finding legal materials</li> <li>• LearningStudio Tutorial</li> </ul>	Quiz
Week 2 1/23 - 1/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 3 Torts</li> <li>• Ch. 4 Nuisance and trespass</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 3 1/30 - 2/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 5 Real property</li> <li>• Ch. 6 Landlord-tenant law</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion Case Analysis
Week 4 2/6 - 2/12	Exam 1 - Chapters 1-6	
Week 5 2/13 - 2/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 7 Personal property</li> <li>• Ch. 8 Contracts</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 6 2/20 - 2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 9 Contracts for the sale of goods</li> <li>• Ch. 10 Secured transactions in real and personal property</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 7 2/27 - 3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 11 Estate planning and farm transition</li> <li>• Ch. 12 Family law, health, and end-of-life care</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion Case Analysis
Week 8 3/6 - 3/12	Exam 2 - Chapters 7-12	
Week 9 3/13 - 3/19	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10 3/20 - 3/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 13 Water law</li> <li>• Ch. 14 Business entities</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 11 3/27 - 4/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 15 Animal law</li> <li>• Ch. 16 Organic, sustainable, fair trade, local, and urban agriculture</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 12 4/3 - 4/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 17 Genetically modified organisms and intellectual property law</li> <li>• Ch. 18 Food safety</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion Case Analysis
Week 13 4/10 - 4/16	Exam 3 - Chapters 13-18	
Week 14 4/17 - 4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 19 Pesticide law</li> <li>• Ch. 20 Conservation and environmental law</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 15 4/24 - 4/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 21 Labor</li> <li>• Ch. 22 Taxation</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion
Week 16 5/1 - 5/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 23 International trade</li> <li>• Ch. 24 Federal farm program law</li> </ul>	Quiz Discussion Case Analysis
FINALS WEEK 5/6 - 5/12	Final Exam Cumulative - Chapters 1-24	