# Agricultural Law AEC 360 01W
## COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Molly Brewer
**"Office" Hours:** Wednesday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
**Office Phone:** 919-600-0057
**University Email Address:** molly.brewer@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email (I work remotely and unfortunately do not have a physical office.

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

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Textbook Required: Agricultural and Agribusiness Law An Introduction for Non-Lawyers, Theodore A. Feitshans**
**\*\*PLEASE PURCHASE THE FIRST EDITION\*\***

**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;

*Syllabus/schedule subject to change*

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;
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, discussion, quizzes and exams to assist the student in achieving the learning objectives for the course. All work is to be completed on an individual basis. Assignments consist of analyses of judicial opinions. 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. 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. Weekly work will generally be due on Fridays with some exceptions as noted on the course schedule. It is the student's responsibility to monitor the syllabus and course schedules and calendars for all due dates.

### 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

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

### Desktop Support

| Browser | Supported Browser Version(s) | Maintenance Browser Version(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Microsoft® Edge | Latest | N/A |
| Microsoft® Internet Explorer® | N/A | 11 |

| Browser | Supported Browser Version(s) | Maintenance Browser Version(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Mozilla® Firefox® | Latest, ESR | N/A |
| Google® Chrome™ | Latest | N/A |
| Apple® Safari® | Latest | N/A |

## Tablet and Mobile Support

| Device | Operating System | Browser | Supported Browser Version(s) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Android™ | Android 4.4+ | Chrome | Latest |
| Apple | iOS® | Safari, Chrome | The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. <br><br> Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser. |
| Windows | Windows 10 | Edge, Chrome, Firefox | Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR. |

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions *8 Mbps* is required.** Additional system requirements found here: https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

- You must have a:
  - o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - o Speakers or headphones.

- o *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

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

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:
    o Adobe Reader  https://get.adobe.com/reader/
    o Adobe Flash Player  (version 17 or later) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
    o Adobe Shockwave Player  https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
    o Apple Quick Time  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.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

**Note**: ***Personal computer and internet connection 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. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use***

***of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.***

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT
## Brightspace Support
## Need Help?
## Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here**"** to submit an issue via email.

### System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

### Interaction with Instructor

**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 Wednesday between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm and will be conducted via email and telephone. I do not live locally and do not have a physical office space on campus.

### COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures

**Course Work:** All course work (discussions, quizzes, exams, and case analyses) are due by 11:59 PM on the due date listed in the course schedule in this syllabus. This schedule will also be posted, independent of the syllabus, on the course page. Work that is not turned in on time will receive a grade of 0. If you are aware of a situation that will prevent you from completing your work on time, please contact me before the due date to make alternate arrangements. When in doubt, contact me.

**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.  The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

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

### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

### Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work.  For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

## 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 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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.

### Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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

| Week of | Subject/Material Covered | Due By 11:59 PM on last day listed |
|---|---|---|
| Week 1<br>1/13 – 1/17 | • Ch. 1 Understanding the U.S. legal system<br>• Ch. 2 Finding legal materials | Quiz |
| Week 2<br>1/20 – 1/24 | • Ch. 3 Torts<br>• Ch. 4 Nuisance and trespass | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 3<br>1/27 – 1/31 | • Ch. 5 Real property<br>• Ch. 6 Landlord-tenant law | Quiz<br>Discussion<br>Case Analysis |
| Week 4<br>2/3 – 2/7 | Exam 1 – Chapters 1-6 | |
| Week 5<br>2/10 – 2/14 | • Ch. 7 Personal property<br>• Ch. 8 Contracts | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 6<br>2/17 – 2/21 | • Ch. 9 Contracts for the sale of goods<br>• Ch. 10 Secured transactions in real and personal property | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 7<br>2/24 – 2/28 | • Ch. 11 Estate planning and farm transition<br>• Ch. 12 Family law, health, and end-of-life care | Quiz<br>Discussion<br>Case Analysis |
| Week 8<br>3/2 – 3/6 | Exam 2 – Chapters 7-12 | |
| Week 9<br>3/9 – 3/3 | • Ch. 13 Water law<br>• Ch. 14 Business entities | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 10<br>3/16 – 3/20 | SPRING BREAK | |
| Week 11<br>3/23 – 3/27 | • Ch. 15 Animal law<br>• Ch. 16 Organic, sustainable, fair trade, local, and urban agriculture | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 12<br>3/30 – 4/3 | • Ch. 17 Genetically modified organisms and intellectual property law<br>• Ch. 18 Food safety | Quiz<br>Discussion<br>Case Analysis |
| Week 13<br>4/6 – 4/10 | Exam 3 – Chapters 13-18 | |
| Week 14<br>4/13 – 4/17 | • Ch. 19 Pesticide law<br>• Ch. 20 Conservation and environmental law | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 15<br>4/20 – 4/224 | • Ch. 21 Labor<br>• Ch. 22 Taxation | Quiz<br>Discussion |
| Week 16<br>4/27 – 5/1 | • Ch. 23 International trade<br>• Ch. 24 Federal farm program law | Quiz<br>Discussion<br>Case Analysis |
| FINALS WEEK<br>5/2 – 5/8 | Final Exam<br>Cumulative – Chapters 1-24 | |