



## **AEC 360.01W: AGRICULTURAL LAW**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I, 2025

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Rafael Bakhtavoryan

**Office Location:** Agricultural Science Building, Room 232

**Office Hours:** Mondays through Fridays, via email

**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5367

**Office Fax:** (903) 886-5990

**University Email Address:** [Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@tamuc.edu) (please, use only this email address and put "AEC 360" in the subject of the email)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Within 24 hours Monday through Sunday

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Class Meeting:** Web-based

#### **Readings**

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

#### **Lecture Topics**

Chapter 1. Understanding the U.S. legal system

Chapter 2. Finding legal materials

Chapter 3. Torts

Chapter 4. Nuisance and trespass

Chapter 5. Real property

Chapter 6. Landlord-tenant law

Chapter 7. Personal property

Chapter 8. Contracts

Chapter 9. Contracts for the sale of goods

Chapter 10. Secured transactions in real and personal property

Chapter 11. Estate planning and farm transition

Chapter 12. Family law, health, and end-of-life care

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*



## **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.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

After studying all materials and resources presented in 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;
2. 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;
3. List and describe, at a layperson's level, the elements of the relationship between the states and the federal government;
4. Read and interpret judicial decisions, and identify the various parts of judicial decisions, on a layperson's level;
5. Develop a layperson's understanding of some of the major areas of agricultural law; and
6. Analyze how economic policy shapes, restricts, or expands regulation of agribusiness and agriculture at a layperson's level.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students are expected to know how to use the learning management system (D2L will be used heavily in this class).

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

1. Read the assigned material.
2. Complete and turn in assignments and exams at the scheduled time.
3. Use the web to actively seek out other agricultural law sources that fit your learning style and help you better understand the material.
4. Be prepared for exams.

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## GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89.99%

C = 70%-79.99%

D = 60%-69.99%

F = 59.99% or below

Your grade for the semester will be a weighted average of quizzes and two equally weighted exams.

Quizzes	10%
Exam 1	45%
Exam 2	45%

## Assessments

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are assigned regularly (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus) and must be completed individually. Students must turn in quizzes via D2L according to the course outline. Quizzes must be completed by 11:30 p.m. on the due date. No late quizzes will be accepted and a grade of zero will be assessed for missed quizzes.

**EXAMS:** Exams will be administered through D2L (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus for specific exam dates). Exams must be completed by 11:30 p.m. on the due date. Exams will be timed and you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the exam. Make sure you have internet access ahead of time and that your laptop battery is fully charged. No make-up exams will be given. If an exam is missed a grade of zero will be assessed for it. Exams must be completed individually using your own student account and there should be no collaboration or sharing of work with your classmates on the exams.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

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## **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](mailto: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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

The instructor's communication response time is stated clearly on the first page of the syllabus.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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## **ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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>

## **AI Use in Course**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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## **Students with Disabilities - ADA Statement**

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**

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library - Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**AEC 360.01W: Agricultural Law**  
**Summer I 2025, Web-based**

Lecture #	Weekday	Date	Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:30 p.m. For example, quiz 1 is due June 6 by 11:30 p.m., or quiz 2 is due June 10 by 11:30 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due June 17 by 11:30 p.m.
1	Mon	2-Jun	Syllabus & getting familiar with D2L
2	Tue	3-Jun	Ch. 1 Understanding the U.S. legal system
3	Wed	4-Jun	Ch. 1 Understanding the U.S. legal system continued
4	Thur	5-Jun	Ch. 2 Finding legal materials
5	Fri	6-Jun	Ch. 2 Finding legal materials continued, <b>Quiz 1</b>
6	Sat	7-Jun	Ch. 3 Torts
7	Sun	8-Jun	Ch. 3 Torts continued
8	Mon	9-Jun	Ch. 4 Nuisance and trespass
9	Tue	10-Jun	Ch. 4 Nuisance and trespass continued, <b>Quiz 2</b>
10	Wed	11-Jun	Ch. 5 Real property
11	Thur	12-Jun	Ch. 5 Real property continued
12	Fri	13-Jun	Ch. 6 Landlord-tenant law
13	Sat	14-Jun	Ch. 6 Landlord-tenant law continued, <b>Quiz 3</b>
14	Sun	15-Jun	Study day for Exam 1
15	Mon	17-Jun	<b>EXAM 1. Chapters 1 through 6</b>
16	Tue	17-Jun	Ch. 7 Personal property
17	Wed	18-Jun	Ch. 7 Personal property continued
18	Thur	19-Jun	Ch. 8 Contracts
19	Fri	20-Jun	Ch. 8 Contracts continued, <b>Quiz 4</b>
20	Sat	21-Jun	Ch. 9 Contracts for the sale of goods
21	Sun	22-Jun	Ch. 9 Contracts for the sale of goods continued
22	Mon	23-Jun	Ch. 10 Secured transactions in real and personal property
23	Tue	24-Jun	Ch. 10 Secured transactions in real and personal property continued, <b>Quiz 5</b>
24	Wed	25-Jun	Ch. 11 Estate planning and farm transition
25	Thur	26-Jun	Ch. 11 Estate planning and farm transition continued
26	Fri	27-Jun	Ch. 12 Family law, health, and end-of-life care
27	Sat	28-Jun	Ch. 12 Family law, health, and end-of-life care continued, <b>Quiz 6</b>
28	Sun	29-Jun	Study day for Exam 2
29	Mon	30-Jun	<b>EXAM 2. Chapters 7 through 12</b>

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