



Agricultural Law AEC 360.01W

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Instructor: Leilani White

Phone: 808-639-2248 (mobile) or 903-886-5620 (office)

Email Address: Leilani.White@etamu.edu

****Feel free to call or email Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and if I am not available I will respond within 24 hours****

Office Hours

For in-person or virtual consultation, I can be available by appointment only. The best way to arrange an appointment is to contact me via email at Leilani.White@etamu.edu. You can also email me from D2L (myleoonline.tamuc.edu). I generally answer emails within 48 hours. Students who email me after 5:00 PM can expect to receive a reply within 48 hours starting at 8:00 am of the next business day (M-F). Students who email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply within 48 hours from 8:00 am of the next regularly scheduled business day.

Course Information

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

ISBN: 978-1-138-60610-4

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.

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:

- 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;
- 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;
- List and describe, at a layperson's level, the elements of the relationship between the states and the federal government;
- Read and interpret judicial decisions, and identify the various parts of judicial decisions, on a layperson's level;
- Develop a layperson's understanding of some of the major areas of agricultural law;
- Analyze how economic policy shapes, restricts, or expands regulation of agribusiness and agriculture at a layperson's level; and
- 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, written assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams to assist the student in achieving the learning objectives for the course.

- All reading assignments will come directly from the required text unless otherwise provided – the judicial opinions for the written assignments will be provided by me each week they are due.
- Case analysis assignments – students will be provided with a judicial opinion to read and analyze in a specific format. Tutorial materials/video instructions will be provided in week 3 with the first graded written assignment due in week 3.
 - NOTE ON CASE ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENTS: you will have the option to submit your case analysis via video or in writing.
 - Your facts section will be worth 15% of your case analysis grade, your issue(s) section will be worth 30% of your case analysis grade, your holdings section will be worth 25% of your grade, and your reasoning section will be worth 30% of your grade.
- 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.
 - NOTE ON DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION: Participation in discussions must include one original discussion post (this will be worth 75% of your grade) and one response to a classmate's post (this will be worth 25% of your grade). Both your post and response should contribute to the discussion in a meaningful way. Simply agreeing with another student's post or repeating your original post as a reply will not be considered meaningful contribution to the discussion. *Please ask if you are unsure.*
- Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis excluding exams weeks and will include multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank and short answer questions.
- 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, unless otherwise noted in the Course Outline/Calendar, is due by 11:59 pm on the last day of that week. Certain weeks have no assignments due (for example, Week 1 and Week 15), and some due dates are extended into the following week (for example, the Week 8 quiz and case analysis are due on 10/18/26 due to Fall Break). Please monitor the

syllabus, the Course Outline 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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course calendar below. However, unforeseen circumstances may require changes to the course calendar. In that case, changes will be announced via University Email and in Announcements. The Instructor reserves the right to change the course calendar if necessary and depending on the progress of the class.

Week of:	Chapters Covered:	To Do: * = Assignments due	Due Dates: <i>Assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST on the Date provided</i>
Week 1 8/20 - 8/23	Ch. 1 Understanding the Legal System	- Review the Course Syllabus - Weekly reading	<i>No assignments due during this week</i>
Week 2 8/24 – 8/30	Ch. 2 Finding Legal Materials	- Weekly Reading - Quiz for Chapters 1-2*	Quiz for Chapters 1-2 due on 8/30/26.
Week 3 8/31-9/6	- Ch. 3 Torts - Ch. 4 Nuisance and trespass	- Weekly reading - Case analysis tutorial & video - Quiz for Chapters 3-4* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 3-4 and Discussion Assignment due on 9/6/26.
Week 4 9/7 – 9/13	- Ch. 5 Contracts - Ch. 6 Real property	- Weekly reading - Quiz for Chapters 5-6* - Case Analysis* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 5-6, Discussion Assignment, and Case Analysis are all due on 9/13/26.
Week 5 9/14 – 9/20	Exam 1 – Chapters 1-6 *		Exam is due on 9/20/26
Week 6 9/21 - 9/27	- Ch. 7 Landlord-tenant law - Ch. 8 Personal property	- Weekly reading - Quiz for Chapters 7-8* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 7-8 and Discussion Assignment due on 9/27/26.
Week 7 9/28 – 10/4	- Ch. 9 Contracts for the sale of goods - Ch. 10 Secured transactions in real and personal property	- Weekly reading - Quiz for Chapters 9-10* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 9-10 and Discussion Assignment due on 10/4/26.
Week 8 10/5 – 10/11	- Ch. 11 Estate Planning and Farm Transition - Ch. 12 Family Law, Health, and End-of-Life Care	- Weekly reading - Quiz for Chapters 11-12* - Case Analysis* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 11-12, Case Analysis Assignment, and Discussion Assignment due on 10/18/26 (<i>this is extended into Week 9, due to the Fall Break</i>).
	FALL BREAK 10/8-10/9		
Week 9 10/12-10/18	Exam 2 – Chapters 7-12*		Exam is due on 10/18/26
Week 10 10/19-10/25	- Ch. 13 Water law - Ch. 14 Business entities	- Weekly reading - Quiz for Chapters 13-14* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 13-14 and Discussion Assignment due on 10/25/26

Week 11 10/26-11/1	- Ch. 15 Animal law - Ch. 16 Organic, sustainable, fair trade, local, and urban agriculture	- Weekly reading - Quiz for Chapters 15-16* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 15-16 and Discussion Assignment due on 11/1/26
Week 12 11/2 - 11/8	- Ch. 18 Food law - Ch. 19 Criminal law	- Quiz for Chapters 18-19* - Case Analysis* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 18-19, Discussion Assignment, and Case Analysis Assignment due on 11/8/26
Week 13 11/9-11/15	Exam 3 – Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 & 19 (NOT ch. 17)*		Exam is due on 11/15/26 *
Week 14 11/16 - 11/22	- Ch. 22 Labor - Ch. 23 Taxation	- Weekly reading - Discussion*	Discussion Assignment due on 11/22/26
Week 15 11/23 – 11/29	- Ch. 20 Pesticide law - Ch. 21 Conservation and Environmental Law	Weekly Reading	<i>No Assignments are due this week due to Thanksgiving Break</i>
	Thanksgiving Break 11/25 – 11/27		
Week 16 11/30 – 12/6	- Ch. 24 International Trade - Ch. 25 Federal Farm Program Law	- Weekly Reading - Quiz for Chapters 24-25* - Case Analysis* - Discussion*	Quiz for Chapters 24-25, Discussion Assignment, and Case Analysis due on 12/6/26.
Week 17 12/7 – 12/11	Final Exam Cumulative Chapters 1-25*		Exam is due on 12/11/26.

Grading Policy

COMPONENT	WEIGHT
Case Analysis Assignments	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.
- 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
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, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. 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:
 - 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
- **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:
 - 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.

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/) (version 17 or later) <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.

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@etamu.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

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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Course Work: All course work (discussions, quizzes, exams, and case analyses) is 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, you are always welcome to contact me before the due date whenever possible to make alternate arrangements. I am always happy to make accommodations when you have scheduling conflicts whether personal or otherwise. Whenever possible, please do not wait until the due date has passed to ask for an extension. When in doubt . . . contact me. These are unusual times and while I expect each student to take personal responsibility for adhering to all deadlines, but *please do not hesitate to reach out if you need help with anything at all*. I am here to help you succeed!

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. Please make sure you are familiar with and understand all previously covered material prior to moving on to each new chapter and each new week.

Syllabus Change Policy: The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events 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.

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; communicating with another during an exam or assignment (whether written, oral, or otherwise); giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor; possessing or using unauthorized materials during a test; and 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; and 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.

Drop Course Policy

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

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 Handbook](#): <https://www.etamu.edu/student-handbook/>

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>

ETAMU Attendance:

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage : <https://www.etamu.edu/attendance/>

<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](#)
[esProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

Counseling Center

A student who faces a crisis or a serious and unforeseeable event that affects his/her class performance must contact the Counseling Center, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 203, Phone (903) 886-5145. If important class material or course assignments are missed because of such crisis or event, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. Website: www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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

East Texas A&M University Gee

Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/)

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

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.

AI Use Policy

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). 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.

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 East Texas A&M 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 [link](#) and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.