

Introduction to Agricultural Law

AGEC 3503

Instructor: Rusty Rumley, J.D. LL.M. (Agricultural Law)
AFLS – B106C and Food Science – B1
Phone: (479) 575-2636
Email: rrumley@uark.edu

Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday – 8:00-9:15am (Fall Semester 2017)
Poultry Science OA211 (the Auditorium)

Office hours: 9:30 – 11:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays or as requested

Materials: All reading materials and assignments shall be posted on Blackboard or handed out in class. There is no textbook for this class, but you will need up to 13 scantrons (the skinny green ones) which you will be required to bring this semester.

I. Catalog Description:

Examination of those areas of law especially applicable to agriculture. Fundamentals of contract law, torts law, and property law will accompany discussion of major areas of agricultural law; acquisition and disposal of farmland; farm tenancies; rights and limitations in the use and ownership of farmland; animal law; environmental protection; protection of the productivity of agricultural land; and the law of sales and secured transactions in an agricultural context.

II. Course Objectives:

Each student who successfully completes this course will have enhanced their skills in recognizing legal issues applicable to agriculture. Students will be able to identify areas in need of additional legal study, areas undergoing policy shifts at the local, state, regional and national levels, and areas in which close scrutiny of legal and policy matters can result in impacts to a wide range of agricultural activities.

Each student who successfully completes this course will be able to

- A general understanding of the U.S. legal system
- Identify a variety of laws and regulations important to agriculture
- Explain, generally, the legal concerns discussed in the course
- Define legal terminology important to the area of discussion
- Discuss the policy arguments on each side of the issue
- Apply concepts learned to real-world examples of legal questions

III. Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. University rules provide severe penalties for academic dishonesty, ranging from course failure to dismissal from the University. Signing a classmate's name to the attendance roster is considered academic dishonesty.

Statement Regarding Note Selling and Distributing

There are companies that will try to lure you into selling the notes you take in this class. Don't let these companies take advantage of you. Selling my notes to any commercial service I will consider a violation of my intellectual property rights and/or copyright law as well as a violation of the U of A's academic integrity policy. Continued enrollment in this class signifies intent to abide by the policy. Any violation will be reported to the Office of Academic Initiatives and Integrity.

IV. Students with Disabilities:

If you have special needs of which the instructor should be aware, please make arrangements as soon as possible by email at rrumley@uark.edu.

V. Class Attendance:

Class attendance is required and critical to success in AGEC 3503. Students can have up to four absences for things like minor illness (such as flu, strep, etc), car trouble, job interviews, etc... Five or more absences will result in a deduction in the student's grade (see **Grading and Exams** below).

"Excused" absences will ONLY be given in the following situations:

1. For University events: A faculty member must provide an email or letter before the missed class; or
2. For Serious Illness or Death in the family: This is given only at the instructor's discretion. You must have written documentation, such as a doctor's note, in order to even be considered for an excused absence. Minor illnesses such as headaches, flu, colds, etc... count as one of your four free absences and you will not be eligible for an excused absence.

A pattern of tardiness by a student will be addressed and can result in an appropriate reduction of that student's final grade. If you leave class early then you must sign out and be counted as absent, unless you email me before class and I agree to it by email.

VI. Grading and Exams:

There will be a total of 400 points available in this class, broken down as follows:

Three exams @ 100 points each	=	300
Attendance	=	50
Quizzes	=	<u>50</u>
Total Points Available		400

Exams:

There will be two regular and one final exam. Each exam will be count for 100 points and the final exam will only cover the materials from between the second exam and the end of the semester (i.e. **NOT** comprehensive). If for some reason you are unable to attend one of the exams then let the professor know before the exam in an email to see about another time to take the exam. Makeup exams will be given only at the instructor's discretion and will involve a loss of points on that exam.

Quizzes:

There will be 10 quizzes given throughout the semester that will occur at the beginning of the class. These quizzes will be based upon the information from the reading assigned for the class session for that

day. Only the top 5 of your quiz scores will be used and the others will be dropped. Because half of the quizzes are disregarded you will NOT be able to make up a quiz if you are absent for any reason.

Attendance:

4 or fewer absences	50 points
5 absences	40 points
6 absences	30 points
7 absences	20 points
8 absences	10 points
9 or more absences	0 points

VII. Semester schedule:

August 22	Class begins
August 25	Last day to register, add a course, or change from audit to credit
September 01	Last day to drop without a mark of “W” or change from credit to audit
November 17	Last day to drop a Spring semester class with a “W”
December 12	Final Exam date for Introduction to Agricultural Law

VIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- **CALL-** 9-1-1
- **AVOID-** If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY-** Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- **DEFEND-** Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.