

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: AGECE 3523

Instructor: Elizabeth Rumley, J.D. LL.M. (Agricultural Law)
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Class: T/Th 12:30-1:45
PTSC009 (Plant Science Auditorium)

Office hours: T/Th 1:45 pm- 2:45pm or as requested
AFLS #B106C

Materials: All reading materials and assignments will 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:

Principles of environmental and natural resources law relevant to agriculture, food and the environmental sciences; legal principles relating to regulation of water, air, hazardous substances, land, wildlife, livestock, and water rights. Principles of civil and criminal liabilities and other developing legal and regulatory issues relating to agriculture and natural resources.

II. Course Objectives:

This class will include a focused examination of federal and state environmental laws applicable to agricultural production and use of natural resources. An outline of the fundamentals of environmental law will accompany discussion of major areas: i.e., federal statutes such as the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; state laws such as nuisance and right-to-farm laws; and other related areas.

The student who successfully completes this course will have enhanced their ability to recognize environmental and natural resources law issues related to those subject areas covered in class. The student will be able to identify areas in need of additional legal study, areas undergoing policy shifts in the local, state, regional, national, and international agricultural context, and areas in which close scrutiny of legal and policy matters can result in impacts to agricultural operations and the agricultural sector. Importantly, the student will have gained experience in reading and discussing state and federal case law impacting the area of environmental and natural resources law.

III. Class Attendance:

Class attendance is required and critical to success in this course. Students may have up to three “free” absences; four or more absences will result in a deduction in the student’s grade (see **Grading and Exams** below). A pattern of tardiness or leaving class early will be addressed and may result in an appropriate reduction of that student’s final grade.

“Excused” absences will ONLY be given in the following situations:

1. For *University events*: A faculty member must provide an email/letter to me before the missed class; or

2. For *serious illness (resulting in two or more consecutive absences) 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 be considered for an excused absence. The student must contact me within a week of the missed class periods notifying me of the concern and asking for accommodations.

IV. Academic Integrity:

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

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 will be considered 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.

V. Students with Disabilities:

If you have special needs of which the instructor should be aware, please make appropriate arrangements through the Center for Educational Access (<http://cea.uark.edu/>) as soon as possible.

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 exams and one final exam. Each exam will be count for 100 points and the final exam will only cover the materials between the second exam and the end of the semester (i.e. **NOT** comprehensive). Makeup exams will be given only at the instructor's discretion and will involve a loss of points. Please refer to UAConnect for the date and time of the final 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 quiz scores will be used. 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:

3 or fewer absences	50 points
4-5 absences	30 points
6-7 absences	10 points
8 or more absences	0 points