

Legal Issues in Animal Agriculture

ANSC 4123; POSC 4123; AGECE 4123

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Class Period: Online (primarily pre-recorded class sessions) with optional class discussions during the scheduled class time (Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm) over Zoom. **We may also have to be flexible with dates due to the ongoing pandemic. Changes will be posted to Blackboard**

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

Materials: All reading materials and lectures will be posted on Blackboard. There is no textbook for this class. All materials will be made available through Blackboard. This includes lectures, quizzes, and exams.

If you are having difficulty accessing materials, lectures, quizzes or exams over Blackboard, please contact them directly at (479) 575-HELP or by email at bbhelp@uark.edu. Please contact them immediately when you notice a problem.

I. Catalog Description:

An issues-oriented course focusing on the legal issues involved in the production of poultry, swine, livestock and horses. Emphasis will center on the laws, regulations and policy arguments involved in animal confinement, antibiotic use, humane slaughter and veterinary medicine, along with other related issues. The wide range of regulation- from local to state to federal, depending on the issue- will be studied and discussed.

II. Course Objectives:

Each student who successfully completes this course will have enhanced their skills in recognizing legal issues applicable to animal 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 poultry, swine and livestock operations.

Each student who successfully completes this course will be able to

- Identify a variety of laws and regulations important to animal 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. Graduate Students:

In order to receive graduate credit for this course, students must complete a short paper and class presentation. Specific requirements for the paper and presentation will be handed out on January 21st.

IV. Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating (including taking tests collaboratively or sharing questions) 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 arrangements with CEA and follow up with the instructor as soon as possible.

VI. 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).

Each class session will be recorded and available for students to watch on Blackboard during the first week they are posted (which is the week in which they're assigned). There will be three simple quiz questions that pop up throughout each recording. You must answer all 3 questions in order to receive attendance credit for that class period, unless there is a quiz at the beginning of the lecture. On those class days, the quiz will also count for attendance. Materials and the recorded lectures for each of the two class sessions for the week will be posted on Sunday morning at 12:30 am. Students will be able to view the recordings for attendance credit up through the following Saturday night at midnight. **While the recordings will remain available on Blackboard in order to use them for review, the only way to earn attendance points is to watch the lectures and answer all 3 pop up questions or the 5 question quiz during the first week that they are live.**

Because of the flexible nature of the class, the only way you may receive an excused absence is in special circumstances such as a severe medical emergency that puts you out of commission for the entire week or a substantial portion of the week. For example, if you are hospitalized for several days then that would suffice so long as you have documentation. Procrastinating until the end of the week and then catching the flu would not count as an excused absence, so make sure to complete your work in a timely fashion. The granting of an excused absence will rarely happen because of the flexibility that students have to watch the class sessions during the entire week. If you are having trouble taking a pop-up polling question, please take a screenshot and then contact Blackboard help immediately.

There will also be a voluntary class Zoom session that will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm where we can discuss the covered materials for the week. Because of the limited access to internet and different work schedules caused by the pandemic these sessions will NOT count towards your final grade. These are merely to provide additional information and to talk about concepts that you may not fully understand.

VII. 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. 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 me know via email at least 3 days before the exam to discuss rescheduling. Makeup exams will be given only at the instructor's discretion and will involve a loss of points on that exam. The class time for this class is 11:00 am to 12:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *You will be required to take each exam during the regularly scheduled class period.* Exam dates will be Feb 16th, Apr 1st, and May 6th, so you have plenty of notice to be able to find an alternative. If you have CEA accommodations, you must email me at least a week in advance for each exam in order to schedule your times.

We will be using the Respondus lockdown browser function on BlackBoard to administer the exams.

I've been told that it works well with Macs and PCs, but Chromebooks and other systems do not work. If you have a Chromebook or other platform that will not work with Respondus then you will need to make arrangements to either take the exam in a computer lab on campus or check out a laptop. If you have problems taking an exam make sure to contact both BlackBoard Help (their contact information is at the top of the syllabus) and myself immediately.

Quizzes:

There will be 10 quizzes, each with 5 questions, given throughout the semester that will occur at the beginning of a lecture. 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.

Because quizzes are also used to determine attendance you must take each quiz to receive attendance points even if you are satisfied with your 5 highest quiz grades. If you are having trouble taking a quiz, contact BlackBoard Help immediately (their contact information is at the top of the syllabus.)

Attendance:

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