AEC 360.01W AGRICULTURAL LAW
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012

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COURSE INFORMATION

***Textbook(s) Required*:**

Principles of Agricultural Law by Roger A. McEowen and Neil E. Harl. Agricultural Law Press, Oregon, Spring 2012 Ed., 2012. (ISBN 0-9677856-0X)

Course Description:

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:

1. Learn the basic concepts of agricultural law.
2. Gain knowledge of contracts, secured transactions, and negotiable instruments.
3. Learn the nature of cooperatives, their formation, and management.
4. Study possible business organizational methods and basic considerations.
5. Distinguish between the different types of bankruptcy, learn how to handle and file for appropriate bankruptcy, and the role of income taxation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
This course consists of a series of assignments and examinations to assist the student in achieving the learning objectives for the course. Each week, students are encouraged to work on assignments, discussions and readings in preparation for weekly quiz and periodic exam.

Grading

Discussions and exercises	15%
Quizzes	25%
Two announced examinations	40%
Final examination	20%

Grading Scale:

Range	Grade
90-100.00	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
Less than 60	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/Microphone (optional for online discussions)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Email is the best way to contact me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Exams and quizzes: No makeup exams or quizzes will be offered. A grade of zero will be assigned to any missed exam or quiz. Make sure you have internet access ahead of time. Exams and quizzes will be administered through eCollege. Exams and quizzes will become active the first day of the week they are due and are to be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date. Exams and quizzes will be timed.

Discussions and posts: Discussions will be administered through eCollege. Students are required to make at least one thoughtful post (one complete paragraph at least 5 sentences long) per weekly topic and one thoughtful response (one complete paragraph at least 5 sentences long) per weekly topic. Students will be graded on the quality and timeliness of their posts (see discussion/exercise rubric). Students should plan to participate throughout the course. Discussions will become active the first day of the week they are due and are to be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.

Exercises: exercises will involve agricultural law principles and emphasize their importance and applicability to the farm, agribusiness, and the agricultural industry. Exercises will be selected from the book or provided by the instructor. Exercises will become active the first day of the week they are due and are to be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.

Class Preparation: Students should read content and complete course assignments prior to deadlines. Students are expected to actively participate in online discussions and submit homework in-time. Students are also expected to complete quizzes and exams on the date and time allotted. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and understand all previously covered material prior to each new chapter.

University Specific Procedures:

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
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Student Conduct: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*

COURSE OUTLINE

Week of	Subject/Material Covered	Assignments Due By 11:59 PM
Week 1 Aug 27- Sept 2	Syllabus eCollege Tutorial	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 2 Sept 3- Sept 9	Chapter 1 – Introduction §1.01-§1.06	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 3 Sept 10- Sept 16	Chapter 2 – Contracts §2.01-§2.07	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 4 Sept 17- Sept 23	Chapter 2 – continued §2.08 -§2.011	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 5 Sept 24- Sept 30	Exam: Chapters 1,2	Exam 1
Week 6 Oct 1- Oct 7	Chapter 3 – Secured Transactions §3.01-§3.02	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 7 Oct 8- Oct 14	Chapter 3 – continued §3.03-§3.05	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 8 Oct 15- Oct 21	Chapter 4 – Negotiable Instruments §4.01-§4.07	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 9 Oct 22- Oct 28	Chapter 10 – Cooperatives §10.01-§10.08	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 10 Oct 29- Nov 4	Exam: Chapters 3, 4, 10	Exam 2
Week 11 Nov 5- Nov 11	Chapter 9 – Business Planning §9.01-§9.08	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 12 Nov 12- Nov 18	Chapter 9 – continued §9.09	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 13 Nov 19- Nov 25	Chapter 5 – Bankruptcy §5.01-§5.07	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 14 Nov 26- Dec 2	Chapter 5 – Continued §5.08-§5.10	Discussion (post and response) Quiz
Week 15 Dec 3- Dec 9	Exam: Chapters 9, 5	Exam 3

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as circumstances may dictate. All changes will be announced via eCollege or email.

DISCUSSION/EXERCISE RUBRIC

CATEGORY	100%	75%	50%	25%
Understanding of Topic	Student clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information forcefully and convincingly.	Student clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information with ease.	Student seemed to understand the main points of the topic and presented those with ease.	Student did not show an adequate understanding of the topic.
Information	All information presented was clear, accurate and thorough. 5 or > sentences long.	Most information presented was clear, accurate and thorough. 4 sentences long.	Most information presented was clear and accurate, but was not usually thorough. 3 sentences long.	Information had several inaccuracies OR was usually not clear. 1-2 sentences long.
Use of Facts/Statistics	Every major point was well supported with several relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	Every major point was adequately supported with relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	Every major point was supported with facts, statistics and/or examples, but the relevance of some was questionable.	Every point was not supported.
Organization	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea (premise) and organized in a tight, logical fashion.	Most arguments were clearly tied to an idea (premise) and organized in a tight, logical fashion.	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea (premise) but the organization was sometimes not clear or logical.	Arguments were not clearly tied to an idea (premise).