

US AGRICULTURAL LAW
AGEC 342 – FALL 2019
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Jason Franken

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Office Hours: M, T, W, Th 8:00–9:00

or by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

AGEC 342 meets on M, W, F in 308 Knoblauch Hall from 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

EMAILS

Please be sure to include the course in which you are enrolled in any emails.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

Law as it applies to the agricultural operation. Partnership, corporation, agribusiness contracts, leases, leasing practices, environmental, tort and liability law are covered.

Prerequisite: AGRI 220. 3 hrs. lect.

TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIAL

- Recommended: Looney, J.W. and Uchtmann, Donald L. Agricultural Law – Principles and Cases, Second Edition, McGraw-Hill, Inc. ISBN 9780070657465
- Supplemental Handouts

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a basic understanding of law and the legal system as it pertains to agriculture.
2. To learn basic legal terminology relevant to duty, liability, contracts, tenancy, property transfer, and organization and operation of businesses.
3. To gain practical experience regarding civil and criminal procedures through mock trials.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class and to actively participate in discussions.

- Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) - <http://wiu.edu/oars>.

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. See <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>.

Disruptive Student Behavior: Behave yourself. <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disrupst.php>.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please feel free to stop by and discuss your needs or contact Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512 or disability@wiu.edu.

TOBACCO POLICY

Tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated in class. This includes chewing tobacco.

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off prior to class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class. Cell phones are not be used under any circumstances on exams. **Texting** is not allowed during class and repeated violations may lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 30	-	Last day to drop without being assessed tuition or receiving a "W" grade
Sep 2	-	Labor Day: No Class
Oct 11	-	Fall Break: No Class
Oct 27	-	Last day to drop with a "W"
Dec 9	-	Comprehensive Final Exam: 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm

GRADING POLICY

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Exam I	20 %	A = 93% or above	C- = 70-72.99%
Exam II	20 %	A- = 90-92.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
Class Participation	20 %	B+ = 87-89.99%	D = 63-66.99%
Quizzes and Homework	20 %	B = 83-86.99%	D- = 60-62.99%
<u>Comprehensive Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>	B- = 80-82.99%	F = <60%
Total	100%	C+ = 77-79.99%	
		C = 73-76.99%	

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated.

Attention Education Majors: The changes within the Illinois state teaching license require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet Illinois teaching license requirements. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "D+" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

QUIZZES/HOMEWORK

The instructor reserves the right to use both announced and unannounced quizzes. Participation in mock trials, provide a "learn by doing" opportunity. Only excused absences will be allowed to make up missed points. Unless it is an emergency, only absences approved in advance will be excused. It is at the discretion of the instructor as to whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

EXAMS

There will be two tests and one **comprehensive** final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and problem solving questions. Makeup exams will only be given in extreme situations.

If a student disagrees with a particular answer, it is the student's responsibility to provide a logical reason in writing as to the reason for their disagreement. This does not apply to scoring errors. All instructors are human and occasional errors in grading will occur. Please bring any such errors to the instructor's attention immediately.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Start of Week	Topic/Material
Week 1	8/19/2019	Classes Begin Monday Aug 19 Choosing an Attorney. HW: Chapter Overview Presentations
Week 2	8/26/2019	Chapter 1. Introduction to Law and Agricultural Law Review Components of Agricultural Law Chapter 2. Torts & Chapter 8. Liability for Farm Animals Fence Laws
Week 3	9/2/2019	Labor Day on Sept 2 - No Class/University closed Chapter 3. Contracts, & Supplemental Contract Lecture Chapter 4. Nature & Meaning of Property, & Intellectual Property Rights
Week 4	9/9/2019	Chapter 5. Acquiring & Disposing of Real Property Deeds and Land Ownership Mock Civil Trial – Animals Running at Large
Week 5	9/16/2019	Review & Exam 1
Week 6	9/23/2019	Chapter 6. Rights & Limitations in the Ownership of Agricultural Property Chapter 7. Rights & Limitations in the Use of Agricultural Property. Ownership Rights & Responsibilities, & Lecture on Property Insurance
Week 7	9/30/2019	Criminal Law Lecture, & Supplemental Criminal Law Lecture Chapter 9. Protecting the Environment & Productivity of Agricultural Land
Week 8	10/7/2019	Chapter 10. Water & Drainage Oct 11: Fall Break -- No Classes
Week 9	10/14/2019	Chapter 11. Sales, Warranties & Products Liability Chapter 12. Marketing of Agricultural Products Wed: Mock Criminal Trial–Meat Packer & Inspector, bribery & assault
Week 10	10/21/2019	Review & Exam 2
Week 11	10/28/2019	Chapter 13. Agricultural Credit, Finance & Bankruptcy Chapter 14. Agricultural Labor, Agents & Independent Contractors Employment Legislation
Week 12	11/4/2019	Chapter 15. Farm Tenancy, & Lecture on Leases & Leasing HW: Contract (Rental, other)?
Week 13	11/11/2019	Chapter 16. Farm Partnership
Week 14	11/18/2019	Chapter 17. Farm Corporations Other organization forms: Farm Limited Liability Companies & Coops
	11/25/2019	Thanksgiving Break Nov 25-27/28-29 - No Class/University closed
Week 15	12/2/2019	Chapter 18. Farm Estate Planning Review for Final
Week 16	12/9/2019	Comprehensive Final Exam is 1:00 pm Monday Dec 9

ACCREDITATION

The School of Agriculture is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

NOTICES

Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.