

**US AGRICULTURAL LAW**  
**AGEC 342 – FALL 2020**  
**School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University**

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**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Jason Franken

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Office Hours: M, T, W, Th 8:00–9:00 by email or  
other electronic method as needed.

**CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

AGEC 342 is an online course found at <http://www.westernonline.wiu.edu>.

**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](mailto: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

Sep 4	-	Last day to drop without being assessed tuition or receiving a "W" grade
Sep 7	-	Labor Day: No Class
Oct 2	-	Fall Break: No Class
Nov 1	-	Last day to drop with a "W"
Dec 14	-	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:

Quizzes	20%	A = 93% or above	C- = 70-72.99%
Discussion Boards	20%	A- = 90-92.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
Midterm Exam	30%	B+ = 87-89.99%	D = 63-66.99%
<u>Comprehensive Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>	B = 83-86.99%	D- = 60-62.99%
Total	100%	B- = 80-82.99%	F = <60%
		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 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

Quizzes are on Western Online, remain open for the semester, and may be retaken an unlimited number of times for the highest score. Posts in mock trial discussion boards and are due at 11:59 p.m. Sunday at the end of the specified workweek.

## EXAMS

There will be one midterm and one **comprehensive** final exam. Exams will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions. Exams are limited to one attempt, so make sure you are using a reliable internet connection when attempting the exams. 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

Students will review slides (Powerpoint) notes and complete corresponding quizzes. The primary lectures are listed in the outline below, and supplemental lectures and other materials are also available on Western Online for students interested in additional review or further exploration of topics. Discussion board assignments and exams are bolded in the outline below and are due at 11:59 p.m. Sunday at the end of the specified workweek. In the below outline, “→” denotes that the quiz will open once the student comments on the discussion board for the associated mock trial. Quizzes will remain open for the semester, and may be retaken an unlimited number of times for the highest score. There will also be one shot each at a midterm and a **comprehensive** final exam, so make sure you are using a reliable internet connection when attempting the exams.

Week	Start of Week	Topic/Material
Week 1	8/24/2020	<b>Classes Begin Monday Aug 24</b> Lecture 1: Overview of Course Material Lecture 2: Choosing an Attorney
Week 2	8/31/2020	Lecture 3: Introduction to Agricultural Law, <b>Quiz 1</b>
Week 3	9/7/2020	<b>Labor Day on Sept 7 - No Class/University closed</b> Lecture 4: Torts & Chapter 8. Liability for Farm Animals
Week 4	9/14/2020	<b>Mock Civil Trial Discussion Board (Due 11:59 p.m. Sunday) → Quiz 2</b> Lecture 5: Contracts, <b>Quiz 3</b>
Week 5	9/21/2020	Lecture 6: Nature & Meaning of Property, <b>Quiz 4</b>
Week 6	9/28/2020	Lecture 7: Acquiring & Disposing of Real Property, <b>Quiz 5</b>
Week 7	10/5/2020	Lecture 8: Ownership & Use of Agricultural Property, <b>Quizzes 6 &amp; 7</b> <b>Midterm Exam (Due 11:59 p.m. Sunday)</b>
Week 8	10/12/2020	Lecture 9: Criminal Law Lecture <b>Mock Criminal Trial Discussion Board (Due 11:59 p.m. Sunday) → Quiz 8</b>
Week 9	10/19/2020	Lecture 10: Protecting the Environment & Productivity of Ag Land, <b>Quiz 9</b> Lecture 11: Water & Drainage, <b>Quiz 10</b>
Week 10	10/26/2020	Lecture 12: Sales, Warranties & Products Liability, <b>Quiz 11</b> Lecture 13: Marketing of Agricultural Products, <b>Quiz 12</b>
Week 11	11/2/2020	Lecture 14: Agricultural Credit, Finance & Bankruptcy, <b>Quiz 13</b> Lecture 15: Agricultural Labor Issues, <b>Quiz 14</b>
Week 12	11/9/2020	Lecture 16: Farm Tenancy, <b>Quiz 15</b>
Week 13	11/16/2020	Lecture 17: Business Management Structure
	11/23/2020	<b>Thanksgiving Break Nov 23-25/26-27 - No Class/University closed</b>
Week 14	11/30/2020	Lecture 17: Business Management Structure ... continued Lecture 18: Cooperatives, <b>Quiz 16</b>
Week 15	12/7/2020	Lecture 19. Estate Planning, <b>Quiz 17</b>
Week 16	12/14/2020	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam is 1:00 pm Monday Dec 14</b>

### 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.