AGRICULTURAL (AND FOOD) LAW
Law 560
ASYNCHRONOUS DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
SPRING 2016

COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Wenona Yvonne Whitfield

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GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will consider the legal and policy framework of laws and regulations of the FDA, the USDA and other federal agencies that regulate food and agricultural production and oversee consumer protections. Topics covered in the course will include the environmental impact of farming activities, food safety, labeling and nutrition, the impact of U.S. food policies in the international arena, farm labor issues, genetically modified foods, food stamps and other governmental subsidies for food and agricultural products.

COURSE MATERIALS

The textbook for this course is Food, Farming, and Sustainability by Susan Schneider (Carolina Press: 2011). Please note that a 2015 Supplement is available for this book (at no cost) at:

http://www.cap-press.com/books/isbn/9781594605888/Food-Farming-and-Sustainability

In addition to the textbook readings, you will be required to read and analyze statutory materials, recently decided cases and materials from various other sources including governmental and non-governmental hearings and forums. Since Congress finalized a new “farm bill” in January 2014, your reading and written assignments will also include regulations implementing the new bill as they become available. Links to additional reading materials will be available on the course home page.

COURSE GOALS/EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students should be able to identify the broad regulatory framework of food and agricultural law. Students should have a basic knowledge of the conflicting goals and policies of the food regulatory agencies. Students will have opportunities to improve research, communication, drafting and analytical skills.
COURSE LECTURE ACCESS

This is an asynchronous distance education course. During each week of the semester, I will record a lecture covering the assigned reading materials. You may access the weekly lectures and other materials from the course website on Desire 2 Learn (“D2L”)

A link to the weekly lectures along with power point slides will be posted on the course homepage. Please contact me immediately if you have any problems accessing the lectures, power point slides or other posted course materials.

OFFICE HOURS

I will not hold formal office hours during the semester. However, I am available for questions at any time via electronic mail. I will schedule a “live” on-line semester review question and answer session at the end of the semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are required to listen to the recorded lecture and to follow other instructions regarding additional assignments for each week’s class. Study and review problems or other tasks, including drafting projects will be presented during each lecture. In order to receive credit for attending a class, you must submit your answers as directed in the recorded lectures in the designated Assignment Drop Box. Each week, Assignment Drop Box submissions will be due no later than Sunday at noon (CST). You will not receive attendance credit for that week’s class session if you fail to timely post submissions to the week’s Assignment Drop Box. You will be withdrawn from the course and prohibited from taking the course final examination if you fail to submit materials to the Assignment Drop Box for more than two sessions during the semester. There are no exceptions to the attendance requirements.

DISCUSSION BOARD (FORUMS) PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

You are also required to participate in the weekly discussion boards (forums). The discussion board represents traditional in-class discussion, argument, and an opportunity for information sharing, in-depth analysis and problem solving. The discussion board simulates what you will be doing as attorneys --- so treat the discussion board as a courtroom or other legal forum. Please refer to the posted Netiquette Guidelines posted in the Discussion Board folder.

Each week (with the exception of the first and last week of classes) I will post a topic in the discussion board folder. You must post an initial response to the weekly discussion board topics by noon on Thursday. Additionally, each student must post a “reply” or “response” to postings of at least two classmates. Reply postings are due by noon on Saturday of the same week. Your initial postings and reply postings should display your comprehension of the subject. You are encouraged to offer comments based on your personal experiences and to provide links or citations to law and non-law related articles or other materials. A “grading

1 If you are not familiar with Desire2Learn, go to the website for the SIU Center for Teaching Excellence at http://cte.siu.edu/siuonline-helpdesk/index.html. The Center’s website offers assistance on how to access distance education courses and other helpful tips.
rubric” for the on-line discussion board postings is posted in the Course Materials folder of D2L.

Throughout the semester, I will communicate with students on an individual basis offering an evaluation of your discussion board and Assignment Drop Box postings.

In addition to the required discussion board participation, you are encouraged to utilize the “water cooler” folder. The water cooler folder allows you to communicate with others in the class on topics related to the general subject of food and agriculture that we may not cover in this course.

**CALCULATION OF COURSE GRADE**

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

25% - Evaluation of your discussion board and Assignment Drop Box postings

75% - Final examination

The final examination will be administered solely by use of ExamSoft (unless the student receives an ADA accommodation). The exam will be two-hours in length and will have multiple-choice and essay questions. The exam will be an open-book, open-notes exam. You will be allowed to take the examination at a time of your choosing during a five-day span of the final examination period. The exact dates of the availability of the final exam will be determined later in the semester.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABLED STUDENTS**

It is the policy of Southern Illinois University to provide reasonable accommodations for disabled students. See the Disability Policies posted on the School of Law website at: http://www.law.siu.edu/infofor/disability-policies.html

**HONOR CODE**

All provisions of the Southern Illinois University School of Law Honor Code apply to this course.