AGRICULTURAL (AND FOOD) LAW
Law 560
ASYNCHRONOUS DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
SPRING 2014

COURSE SYLLABUS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS JANUARY 13 – JANUARY 26

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 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 Schneider, Susan, Food, Farming, and Sustainability (Carolina Press: 2011). 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 will likely finalize a “farm bill” this spring, your reading and written assignments will include various aspects of the farm bill as it proceeds towards final passage. 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 that impact how food and agriculture is regulated. Students will also have opportunities to improve research, drafting and analytical skills.

Course Lecture Access
This is an asynchronous distance education course. You may access the weekly lectures and other recorded materials from the course website on The West Education Network (TWEN) or Desire 2 Learn (“D2L”)\(^1\). A link to the weekly lectures will be posted on the course homepage at the beginning of the week (usually by Monday at 12:00 noon). Please contact me immediately if you have any problems accessing the lectures, power point slides or other posted course materials. I will post the power point slides used in the lectures at the end of each week.

**Office Hours**

I will not hold formal office hours during the semester. However, I am available for questions at any time via electronic mail or by telephone. I will schedule an 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. Assignment Drop Box submissions are generally due by noon on Saturday\(^2\). You will not receive attendance credit for a 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 answers for more than two sessions during the semester. There are no exceptions to the attendance requirements.

**Discussion Board (Forums) Participation Requirement**

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.

You are required to participate in the weekly discussion boards (forums). Each week (with the exception of the first and last week of classes) I will post two topics in the discussion board folder. You must post an initial response to the weekly discussion board topics by noon on Thursday. Then, each student must post “replies” or “responses” to posting by at least two classmates. These replies are due by noon on Saturday of the same week. You may reply to two postings within the same discussion topic. Your initial postings and reply postings should

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\(^{1}\) My preferred choice for a course interface is with the learning platform known as Deesire 2 Learn (“D2L”). Technical difficulties may prevent me from using this platform for the first few weeks of the semester. I will begin the semester using the course homepage on TWEN. I will notify you of the change over to D2L as soon as it becomes available.

\(^{2}\) The deadline for the Assignment Drop Box for Week 2 is extended to noon on **Sunday January 26th** because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on January 20th.
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 rubric” for the on-line discussion board postings will be posted.
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 also encouraged to utilize the
“water cooler” folder. The water cooler allows you to communicate with others in the class on
topics related to the general subject of food and agriculture may not be covered in the 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 two-hour exam will have multiple-choice and essay
questions and will be an open-book, open-notes exam. The examination will be available for
you to take at a time of your choosing during the first week of the final examination period.

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.

LIST OF READING ASSIGNMENTS WEEK OF JANUARY 13TH AND 21ST

Week 1 Assignment for Week 1 (January 13 – January 19)

Topic: Introductory Readings on Agriculture and U.S. Agricultural Law

Assigned reading: Schneider, p. 3-28

Read Stewart, Richer Farmers, Bigger Subsidies, at 2013 WLNR 17695287.

Recorded Lecture

A link to the recorded lecture for this week’s class will be posted.

Additional Recordings:
Listen to the following programs from BILL MOYER’S JOURNAL, originally broadcast on April 11, 2008 on PBS:

_Hunger in America_

_Cash Cows & Cowboy Starter Kits_
[http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/04112008/watch2.html](http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/04112008/watch2.html)

_An Interview with David Beckmann_ (former World Bank administrator and President of Bread for the World Institute)

**Discussion Topic for Week 1**

Post a brief description of your interests, background and experience with agriculture or food. You should also tell me what you hope to learn from the course. Postings are due by noon on Saturday, January 18th. You are not required to post comments on postings by your classmates for this week’s Discussion topic.

**Assignment Drop Box for Week 1**

Post your material to the Assignment Drop Box as directed in this week’s lecture by noon on Saturday, January 18th.

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**Week 2 Assignment for Week 2 (January 21 – January 26)**

**Topic: Introductory Readings on Agriculture and U.S. Agricultural Law (continued)**

**Assigned reading:** Schneider p. 29-52

**Recorded Lecture**

A link to the recorded lecture for this week’s class will be posted.

**Discussion Topics for Week 2**

Post your initial response to this week’s discussion topics by noon on Friday, January 24th. Post responses to your classmates’ postings by noon on Sunday, January 26th.

**Assignment Drop Box for Week 2**

Post your material to the Assignment Drop Box as directed in this week’s lecture assignment by noon on Sunday, January 26th.