

Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

AAEC 3604- Agricultural Law (CRN 90074)

Fall Semester 2008

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00 – 5:30 p.m., most Mondays and Fridays, 8:30-10:00 a.m. and by appointment. (Hours subject to change in November).

Contact geyer@vt.edu to schedule.

Course Time and Place: 12:30-1:45 pm, T, R. Randolph 216

- Text: 1. Fundamentals of Business Law, West Law. 7th Edition (6th is okay to use)
REQUIRED
2. Blackboard Notes www.learn.vt.edu.

When you registered for this course, you effectively entered into a contract with the AAEC 3604 Instructor. I pledge to work hard to make this a challenging, informative, educational, and (hopefully!) fun course. I will strive to be fair in assigning grades, and I will let you know the criteria on which your performance will be evaluated. In addition, I want you to feel free to ask questions in class and to seek my help outside of class. My office hours are posted. I am also available at other times whenever I am in my office. Feel free to make appointments when you need some help. I expect you to do the work that is assigned and to complete it in a timely manner. You should consistently attend and participate in the lectures and you should keep up with your reading and homework assignments. This is especially important for a law course. Learning is an intense process that requires constant effort and reading, so you must be prepared to work hard if you want to succeed. Failure to do so will dilute what you get out of the course and will ultimately jeopardize your grade.

Teaching Philosophy – This is a law class. I will use the Socratic method along with lecture. I expect questions – because you do not understand, because you want clarification, because you want additional information, etc. I expect documentation of all work as appropriate. I will ask you questions. I may be argumentative. You might be completely right or wrong and I will challenge you. My goal is to get you to critically think, to challenge me and your fellow student. My goal is to assist you in the acquisition of tools and not in memorization. Tools and critical thinking last. Memorization alone does not prepare one for the future. Concepts must be known and understood.

LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES

LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES ARE BANNED FROM CLASS. SURFING THE WEB INSTEAD OF ENGAGING IN CLASS, AND PLAYING GAMES, SHOPPING ONLINE, OR E-MAILING FRIENDS, DISTRACTS YOU AND THOSE WHO SIT

NEAR YOU. THE COMPLAINTS HIGHLIGHT HOW TECHNOLOGIES ONCE EAGERLY ADOPTED BY COLLEGES CAN LATER POSE PROBLEMS.

PACK THEM INTO AND LEAVE THEM IN YOUR BACK PACK, I AM NOT KIDDING --- I ANSWER ALL CELL PHONES AND YOU HAVE NO NEED TO TEXT MESSAGE.

ONE EXCEPTION – WITH MY APPROVAL AND THAT YOU ACTUALLY USE IT TO TAKE NOTES, YOU MAY USE THE LAPTOP IN CLASS....BUT DO NOT TEMPT ME WITH LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.

The text is available for purchase in the bookstore and is on reserve in the library. There will be additional handouts on Blackboard. You are expected to read all assignments prior to the day on which the topic will be discussed. (I will assume you have.)

[NOTE: The University Bookstore will begin returning unsold textbooks to the publisher around approximately one week after the last add date. Therefore, get your books now].

You are expected to read all assignments prior to the day on which the topic will be discussed. You will be called upon in class to discuss the readings and cases. The course involves a large amount of reading, so keep up. Help sessions will be scheduled before exams. Supplemental material is on the web. Additional information will be added to the course website.

Evaluation/Grades (Approximately: subject to change)

Exam Midterm	150
Exam (Final) December 12 at 10:00-12:00 pm	200
Projects, or announced quiz	100
Note Cards (25x5)	<u>125</u>
TOTAL	575

I use a curve established by the class to assign letter grades. The grades will include + and – as well as the alphabetical notation. Exams will cover handouts, readings assigned, and lecture material presented prior to the time of the test.

Make up policy – No make-ups on exams without prior consent of the instructor. [An email request is not consent] No make up of note cards unless you are on university business or prior consent (death in family, emergency hospital). Being sick is not an emergency. Just tell when/why you will not be here. Note cards from others don't count. Honesty does. Approved make-ups may be oral exams at the discretion of the Professor.

Please place name and row number only on back of last page of note cards and exam papers. I reserve the right to adjust the points per assignment and to add quizzes and homework. No make-ups on quizzes and homework. Points will be taken off for late work.

3x5 Note Cards: 1 per class. Topics assigned in prior class or in class. Topics will be questions from you, 2) questions from class, 3) questions from readings or mini in-class

quiz. **DO NOT HAND IN FOR OTHERS**- That is an honor violation. You may hand in only when you are in class.

Exams will be returned in class as soon as possible. Items not picked up in class will be placed in a box outside my office after classroom distributions. If you are not in class, they are your responsibility to pick up. Copies of some old exams are on the Web.

HELP SESSIONS WILL BE SCHEDULED BEFORE EXAMS AND AS NEEDED.

LEXLINE operates at 231-4528 or 953-0571, geyer@vt.edu, the night before exams and after help sessions until 11:00 p.m. I will be available for extended office hours around exam times.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: University policy does not require attendance. **However, class is an important part of the learning experience.** You are expected to attend class. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to secure and understand the material. There is no “Dean or university official” who can excuse you. **IT MATTERS. BE IN CLASS.** If you want to learn—be in class. If you plan to miss more than 3 classes [except official university team, professional meetings, or job interview], drop the class and make room for others. A seating chart will be prepared. The chart is used so I can learn your name and to return papers. Students who miss a lot of class fail to learn. Class attendance includes timely arrival and timely dismissal.

Class meetings are an integral part of most courses and the central component of mine. Therefore, students are expected to meet at all regularly scheduled times, except for cancellations announced on a university-wide basis by appropriate authority. When students cannot attend a class, it is their responsibility to make arrangements for any work missed as soon as possible. In cases of prolonged absences, students should notify me of the reason for their absence.

A STUDENTS DUTY:

1. To read before class. This allows the student to participate in the discussion.
2. To attend class so they can.
 - a. Share their knowledge with the class instructor.
 - b. Reinforce their readings.
 - c. Know what is expected for the next class
3. Be on Time. Don't disrupt your fellow students.

The Virginia Tech Honor Code embodies a spirit of mutual trust and intellectual honesty that is central to the very nature of the university and represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the university community.

The fundamental beliefs underlying and reflected in the Honor Code and the Honor System Constitution are:

- That trust in a person is a positive force in making the person worthy of trust.
- That every student has the right to live in a academic environment that is free from the injustices caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty, and
- That the honesty and integrity of all members of the university community contribute to its quest for Truth. (From Honor Pylon of War Memorial Chapel, Virginia Tech campus)

The Honor Code is the University policy, which expressly forbids the following academic violations:

1. Cheating- - Cheating includes the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of any unfair advantage on any form of academic work, or attempts thereof.
2. Plagiarism- - Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, ideas and/or thoughts of another and passing off same as one's own, original work, or attempts thereof..
3. Falsification- - Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any circumstances relevant to one's academic work, or attempts thereof. Such acts include, but are not limited to, the forgery of official signatures, tampering with official records, fraudulently adding or deleting information on academic documents such as add/drop request, or fraudulently changing an examination or other academic work after the testing period or due date of the assignment.

The Honor Pledge- - "I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment"

The Honor Pledge is to be written out on all graded assignments and is to be signed by the student. In the absence of a written Honor Pledge, the Honor Code still applies to all graded assignments. The above items are from the Honor Constitution.

Technology: You will need access to the web and a userid to receive email. I will post selected class notes, handouts, readings and other material on Black Board. I may send some items via the listserv and then post or notify you via the listserv that it will be posted. I will also assign articles from the Washington Post, Roanoke Times and other sources. I would urge that you visit the site within 10 days of notification, as most articles are free to view for 10 days. Archive copies cost \$\$\$.

The class *listserv* is not moderated. That means that you and I can send messages to the list. I have tried discussion lists before and someone *flames* and the discussion dies. I want discussion. Keep profanity and name calling out of mail to the listserv.