

AEB 4085  
Class: 10091  
Section: REG2

# AGRICULTURAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE LAW

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*Instructor:*

Professor Michael T. Olexa

*Semester:*

Fall 2025





## Course Syllabus

FALL 2025

TUESDAY

2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> PERIODS

8:30 AM-10:25 AM

THURSDAY

3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD

9:35 AM -10:25 AM

ROOM 2102 McCARTY HALL B

TUESDAY

2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> PERIODS

8:30 AM - 10:25 AM

THURSDAY

3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD

9:35 AM - 10:25 AM

Instructor: Dr. Michael T. Olexa  
Office: **McCarty Hall B, Room 2126**

Phone: 352-294-7693  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
email: olexa@ufl.edu

**Note:** If you cannot make office hours, notify me in advance and I will accommodate your schedule.

**Announcements:** Students are responsible for checking Canvas Announcements as this is where the professor will convey important information about the class.

**Text** Professor Olexa's course packet available at Target Copy: 1412 West University Avenue: 352-376-3826.

### Course Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of the basic concepts of common and statutory law.
2. Identify and address current legal issues of importance at the personal and professional level.
3. Develop an understanding of risk.
4. Develop solutions for managing risk.
5. Interrelate the concepts of risk management and law in limiting exposure to legal liability through case law examples.

### Attendance

Attendance is important. The student's success in this class will be dependent upon their participation and the amount and quality of effort expended. Students will be held responsible for material covered in class. Absences can be costly. **Roll will be taken.** Students engaged in officially sanctioned University of Florida activities are encouraged to provide this information to the instructor during the first week of classes.

Students are allowed two unexcused class absences. If you have more than two unexcused class absences and require support for consideration of an Extenuating Circumstance, including family emergencies or other matters of a very serious nature, you must contact the UF Dean of Students, UMatter Care Team at <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notification/> and request an Instructor Notification. This is to be done prior to contacting the professor about the absence. Students with more than two unexcused class absences will be penalized 5% of the final grade. The unexcused absence policy does not apply during the drop/add period. See also UF Regulations and Policies Attendance: <http://regulations.ufl.edu/>

**Recording:** House Bill 233 *Intellectual and Viewpoint Diversity Act* was signed into law and is effective as of July 1, 2021. Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, classroom exceptions and purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. Please see House Bill 233/Section 1004.097 Florida Statutes.

### Lids Down/Text Messaging and Cell Phone Policy

Laptops are not permitted to be use in class. Text messaging, cell phones and other forms of cyber communications are not to be used in class and must be turned off prior to class and during exams. **TEXT MESSAGING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN CLASS! YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE (1) WARNING IF YOU TEXT MESSAGE IN CLASS. AFTER THAT, TEXTING WILL COUNT AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.**

**Exams** There are no make-up exams. If an exam is missed, the following exam will count as two exams-NO EXCEPTIONS. This does not apply to the last exam. **The last exam must be taken.** Students will be graded on the exams taken. Exception will be granted with proper documentation from the Disability Resource Center.

Exam 1 September 25  
Exam 2 October 30  
Exam 3 December 2

## Assignments

There are three (3) written assignments each worth 8.33% of the student's grade. Assignments are discussed in class with students randomly called upon to discuss their assignments. Hard copies of the assignment are to be turned in following classroom discussion. **IMPORTANT:** Assignments are graded Pass (P), Pass negative (P-) and Fail (F). Assignments are to consist of a **full page** of typed text - **double-spaced/12point font with 1 - inch margins**. An example of an acceptable assignment is located in the course packet. If an assignment is submitted that does not meet the template requirements noted in these course materials, that assignment will either receive the grade of P- or F. Assignments submitted late will automatically be penalized 2% prior to grading. A faulty printer for delay of assignment turn in is not a valid excuse. No excuses.

**Final Grade:** The final grade will be calculated as follows:

### Grading

Exam 1	25 %
Exam 2	25 %
Exam 3	25 %
Assignments	25 %

To assist you in maintaining your own records, a record-keeping form has been included at the end of this course material packet.

Grading Scale		Assignments	
92 - 100	A	P = 8.33 %	<b>Extra Credit</b> No individual student will be given the opportunity to earn extra credit or bonus points unless the opportunity is extended to <u>all</u> students.
88 - 91.99	A-	P- = 5 %	
85 - 87.99	B+	F = 0%	
82 - 84.99	B		
78 - 81.99	B-		
75 - 77.99	C+		
72 - 74.99	C		
68 - 71.99	C-		
65 - 67.99	D+		
62 - 64.99	D		
60 - 61.99	D-		
Less than 60	E		

## Academic Honesty

Each of you signed an agreement to adhere to the academic honesty guidelines when you were admitted to the University of Florida. To refresh your recollection, a copy of UF guidelines is attached with an accompanying form for your signature.

## Disability Clause

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the UF Disability Resource Center ([www.DSO.UFL.EDU/DRC/](http://www.DSO.UFL.EDU/DRC/)) 352-392-8565. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide the DRC documentation to the instructor within the first three weeks of class.

## Online Course Evaluation

Evaluations: [www.evaluations.ufl.edu](http://www.evaluations.ufl.edu) are open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Times are provided. Results are available: [www.evaluations.ufl.edu](http://www.evaluations.ufl.edu). Students are encouraged to provide feedback on the quality of instruction.



## The Commitment to Academic Honesty

"We the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**

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### *Acts of Academic Dishonesty*

I. **Cheating:**

The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the teacher; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. Tendering of information includes, but is not limited to, giving your homework to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after taking an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment.

II. **Plagiarism:**

The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

III. **Bribery:**

The offering, giving, receiving or soliciting of any materials, items or services of value to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

IV. **Misrepresentation:**

Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes using computer programs generated by another and handing it in as your own work unless expressly allowed by the teacher; lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic dishonesty.

V. **Conspiracy:**

The planning or acting with one or more persons to commit any form of academic dishonesty to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

VI. **Fabrication:**

The use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for academic or professional advantage.

## Counseling Related to Personal Issues

The University and Gainesville Community offer a number of personal counseling services for students at the University of Florida. Contact the appropriate agency listed below.

- **Alachua County Crisis Center**..... 352-264-6789  
[www.alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisis/](http://www.alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisis/)  
 Crisis Line phone counseling is available 24/7  
 218 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32641  
  
 National Suicide Hotline & Veteran's Crisis Line.....1-800-273-8255

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- **Career Resource Center**.....352-392-1601  
[www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)  
 Career Resource Center Reitz Union

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- **CDS Family and Behavioral Health Services**  
[www.cdsfl.org](http://www.cdsfl.org)  
 1300 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville FL 32601  
 (Gainesville) Counseling/Prevention.....352-244-0628

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- **International Center**.....352-392-5323  
[www.ufic.ufl.edu](http://www.ufic.ufl.edu)  
 Assistance is provided for International students at the University.  
 HUB 1765 Stadium Road

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- **The Dean of Students Office, formerly Office for Student Services** .....352-392-1261  
[www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu)  
 A staff member is available to assist students.  
 Peabody Hall, Room 202

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- **Student Health Care Center**  
**EMERGENCY HEALTH/CRISIS INFORMATION**.....352-392-1161  
<http://shcc.ufl.edu>  
**Locations:**  
**Main Clinic:** Infirmary Building (located on Fletcher Drive next to the Florida Gym).....352-392-1161  
**SHCC@Shands:** Dental Towers/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room D2-49.....352-294-5700

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- **UF Counseling Center** .....352-392-1575  
 Counseling & Wellness Center  
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>  
 A counselor is available to assist students to work through personal issues.  
 3190 Radio Road/Campus / Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Also: Peabody Hall: 1404 Union Road.....352-392-1575

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- **The Disability Resource Center**.....352-392-8565  
[www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)  
 Reid Hall, Room 0002  
 Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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- **Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center** .....352-376-1611  
 1601 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608

- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room Trauma Center**-----352-733-0111  
1515 SW Archer Road 32608
- **University of Florida Police Department**-----352-392-1111  
or call 911 for emergencies

## **Academic Resources**

- **E-learning technical support**-----352-392-4357  
or [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- **On-Line Student Complaints:** View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process
- **Student Complaints On-Campus:** Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.
- **Teaching Center**-----352-392-2010  
To make an appointment 352-392-6420
- **Library Support:** To receive assistance with respect to use of the libraries or finding resources.

**Updated Summer 2025**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Objectives: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Hometown/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the provisions of this course syllabus and agree to abide by those provisions, including the University of Florida's Honor Code.

#### Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

#### Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

We, the members of the University of Florida, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name signed

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Michael T. Olexa, Ph.D., J.D.

[olexa@ufl.edu](mailto:olexa@ufl.edu)

352-294-7693

TUESDAY

2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> PERIODS

8:30 AM - 10:25 AM

THURSDAY

3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD

9:35 AM - 10:25 AM

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
August 21	Orientation	October 16	Product Liability continued Vicarious Liability & Sovereign Immunity
August 26	Law & The Legal System	October 21	Vicarious Liability & Sovereign Immunity continued
August 28	Law & The Legal System continued	October 23	Damages, Statute of Limitations & Attorney Fees
September 2	Law & The Legal System continued Tort Law	October 28	Damages, Statute of Limitations & Attorney Fees continued
September 4	Tort Law continued	October 30	<b>Exam 2</b>
September 9	<b>Assignment #1 Due</b> <b>Case Study - Law and The Legal System</b> Tort Law continued	November 4	Damages, Statute of Limitations & Attorney Fees continued Introduction to Risk Management
September 11	Case Studies - Torts	November 6	Introduction to Risk Management continued
September 16	Negligence	November 11	<b>Holiday - Veteran's Day</b>
September 18	Negligence continued	November 13	Risk Management continued: Case studies
September 23	Negligence/Strict Liability	November 18	Risk Management continued: Insurance and Complaint Handling
September 25	<b>Exam 1</b>	November 20	<b>Guest Lecture: Workers Compensation</b> Risk Management continued: Dealing with the Press & Managing Risks
September 30	<b>Assignment #2 Due:</b> <b>Case Study - Negligence</b> Negligence case studies	November 25	Holiday Thanksgiving
October 2	Criminal Law	November 27	Holiday Thanksgiving.
October 7	Criminal Law continued	December 2	<b>EXAM 3</b>
October 9	Criminal Law continued		
October 14	<b>Assignment #3 Due:</b> <b>Case Study - Criminal Law</b> Product Liability		