

AEB 4123
Class: 10116
Section: REG 2

AGRICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCE LAW

Instructor:

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

Room 2102
McCarty Hall B

Spring 2026





AEB 4123 - Class: 10116 REG 2

Agricultural & Natural Resource Law

Course Syllabus

SPRING 2026

TUESDAY

4TH PERIOD

10:40 AM - 11:30 AM

THURSDAY

4TH & 5TH PERIODS

10:40 AM - 12:35 PM

TUESDAY

4TH PERIOD

10:40 AM - 11:30 AM

THURSDAY

4TH & 5TH PERIOD

10:40 AM - 12:35 PM

Instructor: Office	Dr. Michael T. Olexa McCarty Hall B, Room 2126	Note:	If you cannot make office hours, notify me in advance and I will accommodate your schedule.
Phone: Office Hours: email:	352-294-7693 Tuesday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM olexa@ufl.edu		

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. Introduce the Student to Agricultural Law
2. To encourage the student's analysis of legal issues and concepts as applied to agriculture
3. To generate critical thinking in matters related to agricultural production, natural resources, and environmental policy
4. To provide students with practical information that can be used personally and professionally

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, UMatte 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 Policy and Cell Phone Policy: Laptops are not to be used in class. Cell phones are to be turned off or silenced prior to class and exams. TEXT MESSAGING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN CLASS! YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE (1) WARNING IF YOU TEXT IN CLASS. THE SECOND WARNING 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. This does not apply to the last exam. **The last exam must be taken.** Exceptions will be granted with proper documentation from the Disability Resource Center.

Exam 1	February	12
Exam 2	March	5
Exam 3	April	7
Exam 4	April	21
Assignments	January 27 & March 31	

Assignments

There are two (2) written assignments worth 10% of the student's grade. Assignments are graded as Pass/Fail. Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy in class following class presentations.. Students will be randomly called on to discuss their assignment write ups. **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 (page 20)**. An example of an acceptable assignment is located on **page 21** of 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:

Exam 1	22.5%
Exam 2	22.5%
Exam 3	22.5%
Exam 4	22.5%
Assignments	10.0%

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 = 5%
88 - 91.99	A-	P- = 2%
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	

Extra Credit No individual student will be given the opportunity to earn extra credit or bonus points unless the opportunity is extended to all students.

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/) 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 are open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Times are provided. Results are available: 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."**

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/
 Crisis Line phone counseling is available 24/7
 218 SE 24th Street, Gainesville, FL 32641

 National Suicide Hotline & Veteran's Crisis Line.....1-800-273-8255

- **Career Resource Center**.....352-392-1601
www.crc.ufl.edu
 Career Resource Center Reitz Union

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

- **International Center**.....352-392-5323
www.ufic.ufl.edu
 Assistance is provided for International students at the University.
 HUB 1765 Stadium Road

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

- **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/ 2nd Floor, Room D2-49.....352-294-5700

- **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

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

- **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
- **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 Fall 2025

Name: _____

email: _____

Major: _____

Career Objectives: _____

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_____
Date

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

olexa@ufl.edu

352-294-7693

TUESDAY

4TH PERIOD

10:40 AM - 11:30 PM

THURSDAY

4TH & 5TH PERIOD

10:40 AM- 12:35 PM

Date	Topic
January 13	Orientation
January 15	History & Legal Concepts Introduction to Agricultural Law
January 20	Introduction to Agricultural Law continued Government Regulation of Agriculture
January 22	Government Regulation of Agriculture continued
January 27	Ag. Production & Environmental Law
January 29	Agricultural Production & Environmental Law continued
February 3	Assignment #1 Due: Case Study Government Regulation of Agriculture Agricultural Production & Environmental Law continued
February 5	Agricultural Production & Environmental Law continued
February 10	Water Law Overview
February 12	4th period EXAM 1 5th period Water Law continued and Florida Water Law
February 17	Florida Water Law continued Coastal Zone Management Act
February 19	Coastal Zone Management Act continued and Property Law
February 24	Property Law continued
February 26	Property Law continued
March 3	Property Law continued

Date	Topic
March 5	Property Law continued
March 10	EXAM 2
March 12	Tort Law
March 17	SPRING BREAK
March 19	SPRING BREAK
March 24	Tort Law continued
March 26	Tort Law continued
March 31	Assignment #2 Due: Tort Law Contracts & the Uniform Commercial Code
April 2	4th period EXAM 3 5th period Contracts & the Uniform Commercial Code continued
April 7	Contracts & the Uniform Commercial Code continued
April 9	Contracts & the Uniform Commercial Code continued Introduction to Farm Business Entities
April 14	Farm Business Entities continued
April 16	Farm Business Entities continued
April 21	EXAM 4