



University of Manitoba
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
Winter 2024
January 8th to April 26th

COURSE TITLE Agricultural Law

Course Number ABIZ 2610

Number of credit hours 3 credit hours

Course Location - Virtual

Prerequisites- None

Instructor – Neil Townsend

Course Outline for Course Introductions

Course Number: ABIZ 2610 Agricultural Law

Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop an awareness of the importance of agricultural law in the context of successfully operating a farm business.
2. Students will be able to assess situations and determine when professional legal services would be appropriate for farm management decisions.
3. Students will be able to apply their knowledge from this course addressing legal issues impacting a farm business plan.
4. Students will develop an awareness of legal issues relevant to everyday life.
5. Students will develop their critical thinking skills.
6. Students will develop their oral and written communication skills.
7. Students will have the opportunity to function in a team environment developing a professional presentation.

Course Format:

- Up to four (4) lectures per week.
- Self study and reading assignments.

List of Potential Topics covered in Lectures:

1. Course Introduction: Legal System in Canada; structure, principles, sources of law
2. Principles of Contract Law & Restitution
3. Principles of Tort Law
4. Land - ownership & uses
5. Business Structures; proprietorship, partnership, corporations
6. Financial Instruments, Banking and credit issues
7. Trade Law
8. Insurance Law
9. Farm Safety, Labour Law issues
10. Family Law, Marital Property
11. Administrative Law
12. Creditors' Rights; Bankruptcy & Insolvency; Debt Relief
13. Taxation
14. Intellectual Property, Designs

Statement of Grading and Evaluation:

Quiz and Assignments – 100% (a total of 1000 points)

1. Self assessment – 25 points
2. Balancing Rights and Responsibilities – 150 points
3. Carbon Tax Reading Assignment – 100 points
4. Business Structures Assignment – 200 points
5. Labour Law – 100 points
6. You Need Land to Farm – 75 points
7. Wills and Succession – 150 points

Final Project – 20% (a total of 200 points)

Assignments are marked on your ability to persuade based on course material and your own research. Please write in full sentences and paragraphs. High achievement results from expressing a supported argument (your opinion and how you express it matter).

Required Textbook(s) readings:

There is no textbook required for this course. None required – Supplementary readings will be supplied.

All course materials will be available by logging into the course using **UM Learn**.

Students will be required to locate and use material from outside sources for completing assignments (including websites and other trusted and reliable information sources).

Course Schedules

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or based on the learning needs of the students (changes subject to Section 2.8 of the – [ROASS](#)- Procedure)

Date	Module #	Topic
Jan 8 - 12	INTRO	Self-Assessment/Background reading
Jan 14 - 19	1	Why Does Law Matter?
Jan 21 - 26	2	Contracts/Torts
Jan 28 – Feb 2	3	Business Structures 1.0
Feb 4 - 9	3	Business Structures 2.0
Feb 12 - 16	4	Farm Safety, Labour Law Issues
Feb 25 – Mar 1	5	Family Law, Marital Property
Mar 4 - 8	6	Succession Planning
Mar 10 - 15	7	Taxation
Mar 17 - 22	8	Intellectual Property
Mar 24 - 29	9	Trade Law/Other Topics
April 1 - 11	10	Review and Final Project Due

Grading

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100
A+	95-100
A	90-94
B+	86-89
B	80-85
C+	72-79
C	65-71
D	60-64
F	Less than 60

Academic Integrity:

All course work is to be completed individually for this course, unless you are specifically asked to collaborate with classmates.

Inappropriate collaboration will be monitored by instructors and graders on all work submitted within the course. All course work submitted must be created specifically for this course by the student whose name is on the work.

See more information about Academic Integrity here-

<http://crscalprod1.cc.umanitoba.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=300&chapterid=3755&topicgroupid=20145&loadusercredits=False>

Instructors Note:

This is a course about awareness. Approach this course as if it were a “Firearms Safety” class. You may not intend to “use the law” but you need to be aware that it is there and potentially dangerous if misused or ignored. The law is expansive and persuasive throughout human activity – business and personal. The law follows you from cradle to grave. This is not a course that will train you to be a lawyer. This is best approached with an open mind. Students will be rewarded for thought and consideration of what applies to them in their current or future endeavours. **High achievement will result from a personalized approach to answering questions, demonstrating thought, and assessing risk/opportunity from the legal parameters that surround daily business/family activity.**

What am I looking for in answers? First, proper grammar including punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. You are making an argument supported with your learnings. The goal is “effective communication”. If you spell things wrong, fail to capitalize words like “I” or “Canada” this distracts from your ability to convey knowledge and persuade the reader. Use paragraphs. It is hard to read a big blob without breaks. When you start a new idea, make it a new paragraph. Second, you must use your own opinion backed by readings, lectures, and thought. It is always best to present some alternatives that you explain why they do not hold. Third, I am looking for independent work and informed opinion. There is no right or wrong answer (most of the time). Make sure to support your answer.

Disclaimer:

The content of this course should not be considered legal advice. The instructor is providing generalities and is in no way, shape, or form providing legal guidance to individual situations. If you have a specific legal issue, consult with a lawyer.