**Global Food Laws and Regulations**

**FST 5044 Fall Semester, 2016**

CRN 88479 (Blacksburg) or 88478 (virtual)

**SYLLABUS**

**Instructor(s) contact information:**

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**Course Overview:**

The course explores the history, development and enforcement of laws and regulations that affect the food processing industry and food consumers. In addition, the course will examine the impact of legal and regulatory issues on food quality, safety, formulation, labeling, marketing, grading, product and process development, and international trade for the United States and other select nations.

**Learning objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

A. Describe the extent and applicability of the laws and regulations that affect food processors and food products in the United States and other selected countries.

B. Discuss how food laws and regulations are developed and enforced.

C. Describe the legal responsibilities of food processors.

D. Identify sources of specific food regulatory information and guidance for applying regulations. Such sources will include Internet, printed publications, government agencies, and industry organizations.

E. Discuss the role of food processors and consumers in development of regulations.

F. Evaluate the impact of legal and regulatory issues on food quality, safety, formulation, labeling, marketing, grading, product and process development, and international trade.

**Course Design:**

This online course is offered through Virginia Tech’s CANVAS course management website: [https://canvas.vt.edu](https://canvas.vt.edu/). Course content is provided in a series of “modules”. Some modules will include an audio-enhanced PowerPoint slide presentation developed with Camtasia. Modules may contain links to streaming audio or video, PowerPoint presentations, reference documents in “pdf” format, and hyperlinks to internet-based resources. Documents may be printed for reading at a later time.

Modules will become available on Mondays, and will remain online throughout the duration of the course so you can always go back to review. I encourage you to stay current with the modules and plan on following the schedule below.

**Course Schedule, Fall 2016:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Start Date** | **Topic** | |
| 1 | Aug. 22 | History of food laws, Rulemaking, Food regulatory agencies | |
| 2 | Aug. 29 | FDA regulated foods, inspections, enforcement;  Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) | |
| 3 | Sep. 5 | Dietary Supplements | |
| 4 | Sep. 12 | USDA regulated foods, organic foods | |
| 5 | Sep. 22 | Meat & Poultry Inspection, HACCP | |
| *Exam 1 (due Monday Sep. 26, 11pm)* | | |
| 6 | Sep. 26 | Labeling: ingredients, nutrition, (health/comparative) claims | |
| 7 | Oct. 3 | Food and color additives | |
| 8 | Oct. 10 | Biotechnology and Nanotechnology | |
| 9 | Oct. 17 | State (Virginia) regulation of retail, foodservice | |
| 10 | Oct. 24 | Religious dietary laws (Kosher and Halal) | |
| *Exam 2 (due Monday Oct. 31, 11pm)* | | |
| 11 | Oct. 31 | International Trade- WTO, WHO, FAO, Codex | |
| 12 | Nov. 7 | International Trade- U.S. imports and exports;  FSMA: foreign supplier verification, certification, audits | |
| 13 | Nov. 14 | Food laws and regulations – Canada, Mexico | |
|  |  | *Thanksgiving Week* | |
| 14 | Nov. 28 | Food laws and regulations – select countries | |
| 15 | Dec. 5 | Food laws and regulations – select countries | |
|  | *End of Semester Wed. Dec. 7* | |
| *Exam 3 (due Monday Dec. 12, 11pm)* | | |

**Texts and Other Required Course Materials:**

1. All required course materials (documents, presentations, web links) will be available on the CANVAS course management website: [https://canvas.vt.edu](https://canvas.vt.edu/).

This course will not use a textbook. Suggested books as references include:

* Food Regulation: Law, Science, Policy, and Practice (2007) by Neal Fortin
* Guide to US Food Laws and Regulations 2nd Edition (2013) by Patricia Curtis
* Regulatory Foundations for the Food Protection Professional (2015), editors: Julia Bradsher, Gerald Wojtala, Craig Kaml, Christopher Weiss, David Read

**Grades and Grading:**

A. Assignments and grade values are listed below in the order of their due date. All assignments are due on Monday nights. Also, you will have approximately 3 days to complete tests and quizzes, 7 days to respond to a discussion forum, and 24 days for each of the three writing assignments (~ 3-5 pages each). Maximum score for all tests, quizzes, assignments and discussion forums are reduced 5% per day if submitted after the due date/time.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **GRADE VALUE** | **DATE**  **ASSIGNED** | **DUE DATE Mon @ 11pm** |
| Discussion Forum A | 4% | Mon Sep 5 | Sep 12 |
| Quiz 1 | 5% | Mon Sep 5 | Sep 12 |
| Exam 1 | 15% | Fri Sep 23 | Sep 26 |
| Public Comment Letter Assignment | 10% | Fri Sep 9 | Oct 3 |
| Discussion Forum B | 4% | Mon Sep 26 | Oct 3 |
| Discussion Forum C | 4% | Mon Oct 10 | Oct 17 |
| Issue Paper Assignment | 10% | Fri Sep 30 | Oct 24 |
| Exam 2 | 15% | Fri Oct 28 | Oct 31 |
| Discussion Forum D | 4% | Mon Nov 7 | Nov 14 |
| International Laws & Regs. Assignment | 10% | Fri Nov 11 | Dec 5 |
| Discussion Forum E | 4% | Mon Nov 28 | Dec 5 |
| Exam 3 | 15% | Fri Dec 9 | Dec 12 |

B. Grading Scale (%): 93+ = A 90 - 92 = A- 87 - 89 = B+ 83 - 86 = B 80 - 82 = B- 77 - 79 = C+ 73 - 76 = C 70 - 72 = C- 60 - 70 = D

C. Policy on Posting of Grades:

Grades will generally be posted one week after the assignment / exam due date. The final course grade will be available on Friday, December 16.

D. Virginia Tech Honor Code:

We will abide by the Virginia Tech Honor System. Your submittal of any written or electronic materials shall be your pledge that you subscribe to and accept the Virginia tech honor code and honor system. Specifically, you are expected to:

• Do all written or electronic assignments independently and without assistance.

• Turn in all assignments on time or with a documented excuse if they are late.

• Report any Honor Code violations that you have directly observed, including

cheating on exams.