

# Global Food Laws and Regulations

FST 5044    CRN 97500    Fall Semester, 2008

## Syllabus

### Instructor(s) contact information:

Joseph D. Eifert, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist  
E-mail: [jeifert@vt.edu](mailto:jeifert@vt.edu)    Phone: (540) 231-3658    Fax: (540) 231-9293  
Dept. of Food Science & Technology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

### 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 course is provided in a series of "modules". Most modules will include an audio-enhanced PowerPoint slide presentation developed with Macromedia Breeze. Modules may contain other streaming audio or video, PowerPoint presentations, reference documents in "pdf" format, and hyperlinks to internet-based resources. The modules may be printed for reading elsewhere or at a later time.

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

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Start Date</b>          | <b>Module</b> | <b>Topic</b>  |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1           | Aug. 25                    | 1             | History of food laws, American legal system                   |
|             |                            | 2             | Federal food regulatory agencies, rulemaking                  |
| 2           | Sep. 1                     | 3             | FDA regulated foods, inspections, enforcement                 |
| 3           | Sep. 8                     | 4             | Dietary Supplements   |
| 4           | Sep. 15                    | 5             | USDA regulated foods, organic foods                           |
| 5           |                            | 6             | Meat & Poultry Inspection, HACCP                              |
|             | <i>Friday Sep. 26, 4pm</i> |               | <i>Exam 1 (due Monday Sep. 29, 11pm)</i>                      |
| 6           | Sep. 29                    | 7             | Biotechnology   |
| 7           | Oct. 6                     | 8             | Labeling: ingredients, nutrition, (health/comparative) claims |
| 8           | Oct. 13                    | 9             | Food and color additives                                      |
| 9           | Oct. 20                    | 10            | Religious dietary laws  |
|             |                            | 11            | State regulation of retail and foodservice industries         |
| 10          | Oct. 27                    | 12            | Industry and consumer associations                            |
|             |                            | 13            | Intellectual property   |
|             | <i>Friday Oct. 31, 4pm</i> |               | <i>Exam 2 (due Monday Nov. 3, 11pm)</i>                       |
| 11          | Nov. 3                     | 14            | International Trade- WTO, WHO, FAO, Codex                     |
|             |                            | 15            | International Trade- U.S. imports and exports                 |
| 12          | Nov. 10                    | 16            | Food laws and regulations – Canada                            |
|             |                            | 17            | Food laws and regulations – Mexico                            |
| 13          | Nov. 17                    | 18            | Food laws and regulations – European Union                    |
|             |                            | 19            | Food laws and regulations – Australia, New Zealand            |
|             | <i>Nov. 24</i>             |               | <i>Thanksgiving Week</i>                                      |
| 14          | Dec. 1                     | 20            | Food laws and regulations – China                             |
|             |                            | 21            | Food laws and regulations – India                             |
|             |                            | 22            | Food laws and regulations – Russia                            |
|             |                            |               |   |
|             | Wednesday Dec. 10          |               | <i>End of Semester</i>  |
|             | <i>Friday Dec. 12, 4pm</i> |               | <i>Exam 3 (due Monday Dec. 15, 11pm)</i>                      |

### Texts and Other Required Course Materials:

- A. Required textbook: A Guide to Food Laws and Regulations. 2005. P.A. Curtis, ed. Wiley-Blackwell Publ.; ISBN: 978-0-8138-1946-4. 229 pp. ~ \$65. Available at: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0813819466.html> , or from <http://www.amazon.com>, or <http://www.ecampus.com/>.

Other documents and websites provided on the course website.

- B. Computer Requirements, Software and Hardware:

Refer to the minimum requirements described on the website for the Online Masters of Agricultural and Life Sciences program at:

<http://www.online.cals.vt.edu/masters/onlinelearning/computerrequirements.php>

### Grades and Grading:

- A. Assignments and grade values are listed below in the order of their due date:

| Assignment                                  | Grade Value (%) | Date assigned | Date due (11p.m.) |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Exam 1                                      | 15              | F Sep. 26     | M Sep. 29         |
| Public Comment Letter                       | 10              | M Sep. 8      | F Oct. 3          |
| Organization contact & website evaluation   | 5               | M Oct. 13     | M Oct. 27         |
| Exam 2                                      | 15              | F Oct. 31     | M Nov. 3          |
| Issue Paper                                 | 15              | M Oct. 13     | M Nov. 10         |
| International food laws & regulations paper | 10              | M Nov. 24     | W Dec.10          |
| Exam 3                                      | 15              | F Dec 12      | M Dec. 15         |
| Quizzes (2 @ 2.5% each)                     | 5               | TBD           |                   |
| Discussion board participation              | 10              | ongoing       |                   |
| TOTAL:                                      | 100             |               |                   |

- 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 19.

- 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.