

FOS 4731

Government Regulations and the Food Industry

Spring 2026 (Online)

General Course Information

Course Hours & Location:

This is an asynchronous 100% online course. Lecture recordings and materials will be posted through the Canvas course page.

Instructor:

Dr. Soohyoun (Soo) Ahn

Office: Room 104A, Bldg 120 – Newell Drive

E-mail: sahn82@ufl.edu / Phone: 352-294-3710

Office hours: M/W 9:30 to 10:30 am (virtual), <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97422211968>

T/R 9:00 to 10:00 am (in-person)

All other times – by appointment only

Course Description:

This course will deal with regulations involving food wholesomeness, safety, sanitation, handling, processing, distribution, import and export, ingredients, misbranding, and labeling. This lecture course will also have discussions, case studies, and projects concerning the governmental laws and regulations affecting the food industry. Course content is found on the Canvas course page.

Textbook:

There is NO required textbook for this course. However, two books will be used as primary references.

- Food Law and Regulation for Non-Lawyers, 2nd Ed. – Marc Sanchez (Springer)
- Food Regulation – Law, Science, Policy, and Practice, 3rd Ed. – Neal D. Fortin (Wiley Publication)
- Food Law: A Practical Guide, Tommy Tobin (American Bar Association)

These books are recommended but not required. They will be available through Library course reserves. Additional supplemental articles and videos will be used in this course to enhance the learning of topics covered in class. These supplemental materials are available from each module page in the Canvas course shell.

Course Format:

This is an asynchronous online course, in which the lectures are delivered as recordings through canvas course page. You will find the course content on the course page. The course is divided into 11 modules. Each week, students will get access to a new module page that contains materials for the given week. Each page consists of a link to video lectures, presentation slides and handouts, recommended reading materials, and additional supplementary materials (videos and/or readings) relevant to the module.

Students will acquire knowledge of the current food regulations and their enforcement through lectures, class discussions, reading, and assignments.

Prerequisite:

FOS2040 (Formerly FOS3042) or with department permission

Course Objectives and Learning Goals:

After completing this course, you will be able to

1. Explain the US legal system and rulemaking process.
2. Analyze key historical events and social circumstances that shaped major US food laws and regulations
3. Identify and compare the roles of US government agencies that are responsible for food regulations and enforcement in the US
4. Describe the requirements of food labeling and evaluate their significance in preventing misbranding
5. Explain the circumstances under which food products are deemed adulterated with examples
6. Compare the primary intent of major US food safety regulations and explain their specific regulatory requirements.
7. Discuss Florida-specific food regulations and how they complement or differ from federal regulations
8. Identify, describe, and/or explain the components, requirements, and/or characteristics of AI.

Instruction Method:

All lectures are delivered asynchronously online. Students can access course materials on the course webpage. The course is divided into 11 modules, with a new module page available each week. Each module page includes links to video lectures, presentation slides, handouts, required readings, and additional supplementary materials (videos and/or readings) relevant to the module.

To effectively study the course materials in each module, follow these steps:

1. **Start with the Learning Goals:** Begin by reviewing the learning goals to understand the key points for the module.
2. **Watch the Video Lecture:** Schedule a specific day and time to watch the video lecture. Print out the presentation handout beforehand and take notes during the lecture. The presentation slides provide a summary, but the lecture will offer more detailed explanations.
3. **Review Required Readings and Supplementary Materials:** After the lecture, read the assigned reading materials and watch any supplementary videos. These resources will enhance your understanding and support the lecture content.

Assessment & Grading

Grading:

Module Assessment Quiz (8)* - limited open note	15%
Exams (4)** - limited open note	30%
Assignments	25 %
Final Project: Course Reflection	10 %
Canvas Group Discussion	20 %
Total	100 %

*The lowest grade will be dropped.

**Each exam (~50 min) will each cover 1/4 of the course materials and be equally weighted. Detailed information on the modules covered in each exam is shown below.

Grading scale^{a,b}:

Passing grade	A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	D–	E
Course Average %	100% to 94.0%	<94.0 % to 90.0%	<90.0 % to 87.0%	<87.0 % to 84.0%	<84.0 % to 80.0%	<80.0 % to 77.0%	<77.0 % to 74.0%	<74.0 % to 70.0%	<70.0 % to 67.0%	<67.0 % to 64.0%	<64.0 % to 60.0%	<60.0 %

^aThere is no curb in this course. I do not round up grades. Requests to do so will not be considered.

^bFurther information on UF's grading policy is available at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies>.

Quiz & Exam Details:

There are 8 quizzes and 4 exams in this course. Quizzes cover a single module and include multiple choice and True/False questions. Exams cover multiple modules (non-cumulative) and include multiple choice, True/False, matching and short essay questions. Both are “limited open-note tests” (see the testing rules below) and **proctored by Honorlock**. All tests are taken online via Canvas. Quizzes are open for 5 days (Mon 12:00 am to Fri 11:59 pm) and must be completed within that window. Exams are open for 24 hrs (Fri 12:00 am to 11:59 pm). Once closed, access is unavailable. See the course outline for details (page 7). Each test is timed: quizzes typically 15 minutes, exams 50 minutes (may vary by question count). Once started, they must be finished in one sitting. You must follow [testing guidelines](#); non-compliance is a Student Honor Code violation and may result in academic sanctions and a failing grade.

IMPORTANT TESTING RULES: READ CAREFULLY

- 1. Notes Policy:** You can bring **ONE sheet of paper with information on both sides**. The note must be **created by you and cannot be a copy of the presentation or handout**. The note must be in print (either handwritten or printed) and should not be in electronic form. Honorlock will prevent you from opening other tabs, windows, or applications during the test, so you cannot look up information on the computer. You are required to turn off your phone and **show the note in front of the webcam when you start testing**.
- 2. Electronic Devices:** The use of electronic devices, such as phones, tablets, or laptops (other than the computer you are using for the test), is strictly prohibited. Honorlock detects the use of unauthorized electronic devices and will flag your test. Using electronic devices during the test is a serious violation of the student honor code and may result in a failing grade and other severe consequences.
- 3. Testing Environment:** Make sure to choose a quiet place with minimal background noise for your testing environment. No one else is allowed to be present in the room during the exam. Additionally, headphones and background noise, such as from a TV, radio, or music streaming, are not permitted unless accommodations have been approved through the DRC.
- 4. Camera and Screen:** During the exam, keep your focus on the computer screen at all times. Frequently looking away may trigger a flag for suspicious activity, as it could suggest the use of unauthorized materials. Ensure that you remain in the camera frame throughout the exam, and adjust your webcam so that your entire face is clearly visible.
- 5. Technical Issues:** If you experience technical issues during the exam, try to complete the exam if possible and notify me via email immediately afterward. If Honorlock disconnects you, attempt to refresh the page and continue testing. For urgent support during the exam, you can contact Honorlock Customer Help through live chat.

Quiz Proctoring:

Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam and mic, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at www.honorlock.com/extension/install. When you are ready to take the test, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them by live chat, phone (844-243-2500), and/or email (support@honorlock.com).

Grade Turnaround Time:

Type of Assessment	Turnaround Time
Module Assessment Quizzes	Immediately
Exams	1 Week after from the due date
Assignments	2 Weeks after the due date ¹
Group Discussion	2 Weeks after the due date ¹

¹If you submitted late (after the due date), your grade turnaround time will be 2 weeks from your submission date.

Couse Policies

Policy regarding make-up exams:

Each quiz and exam will be given as scheduled in the course outline (see Tentative Course Outline). Students must take the tests as scheduled. Make-up exams will be allowed in case of emergencies or legitimate reasons (illness, family emergency) that are aligned with the UF Attendance policies. In those excusable circumstances, students should notify the instructor **PRIOR TO** the scheduled exam and provide proper proof afterward (if applicable).

Policy regarding late submission:

Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted by the due date. Extensions may be granted for emergencies or legitimate reasons **if discussed with the instructor before the deadline.**

If no prior arrangement is made, late submissions will be accepted **only for assignments**, with a **10% penalty per day.**

Quizzes and Exams:

Late submissions are **not allowed**. For make-up exam policies, refer to the section above.

Group Discussions:

Because timely interaction is essential, **late submissions are not accepted** for discussions.

Course Communication

Important announcements related to the course will be made through Canvas under Announcements. This will also generate an email that will be delivered to your Gatorlink email. In this course, I mostly communicate with students via e-mail (the one on file with UF). So, if you use other e-mail accounts, please check your UF e-mail regularly or set-up forwarding on the UF system. While I do my best to reply to your emails as quickly as possible, please allow 48 hours to receive a reply.

Students will have multiple channels to communicate with instructors:

- E-mails - either direct email (preferred) or through Canvas mail
- Canvas course page - Q&A forum in Discussion
- Office Hours – The instructor will offer virtual office hours
- Individual Zoom conference meeting scheduled on request

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats.

Technology and Digital Information Literacy Requirements:

Students must use their Gatorlink email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email daily for the duration of the course. All students are required to have access to a computer with stable internet access, a microphone, and a webcam. This online course requires basic computer skills including using MS Word for assignment submission.

Other than the basic computer skills, you'll need the following digital information skills for this course:

- Finding and using information from online libraries and databases
- Saving and organizing files or data on your computer or online storage

- Searching online effectively for academic purposes
- Checking whether digital information is trustworthy, up to date, and unbiased
- Giving proper credit to sources by citing them correctly
- Creating a clear presentation to share your research findings

For issues with technical difficulties in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-4357 - select option 2
- <https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/>

Tentative Course Outline¹:

Week	Module/Topic/Exam	Assignment
1 (Jan 12)	Course Introduction Module 1. History of Food Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Quiz (Jan 12- 23) • EC² pre-assessment quiz (Jan 12- 23) • EC self-introduction (Due on Jan 26) • EC AI Survey – Part I (Jan 12-26)
2 (Jan 19)	Module 1. History of Food Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 Quiz (Jan 19-23) • Assignment 1 (Due on Feb 2) • EC AI Prompt Practice (Due on Jan 26)
3 (Jan 26)	Module 2. US legal System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Quiz (Jan 26-30)
4 (Feb 2)	Module 3. Overview of US Government Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 (Module 1-3) (Feb 6) • Assignment 2 (Due on Feb 16)
5 (Feb 9)	Module 4. Introduction to FD&CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 Quiz (Feb 9- 13)
6 (Feb 16)	Module 5. Food Labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 3 (Due on Mar 9) • EC AI Survey – Part 2 (Due on Feb 23)

¹Circumstances may arise during the course that may prevent the instructor from fulfilling components of this syllabus; therefore, syllabus should be viewed as a guide and is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes.

² EC, extra-credit: These assignments are optional, and the more you complete, the more points you will receive at the end of the term. Details will be explained through the course announcement.

7 (Feb 23)	Module 5. Food Labeling (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 5 Quiz (Feb 23-27)
8 (Mar 2)	Module 6. Nutrition Labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 2 (Module 4-6) (Mar 6) Group Discussion 1 (Mar 2-13)
9 (Mar 9)	Module 7. Health Claims (Module will open on Mar 2 for early viewing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 7 Quiz (Mar 9-13)
10 (Mar 16)	Spring Break	
11 (Mar 23)	Module 8. Food Adulteration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 3 (Module 7-8) (Mar 27) Group Discussion 2 (Mar 23 – Apr 3)
12 (Mar 30)	Module 9. Food Safety Regulations - Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 9 Quiz (Mar 30 – Apr 3)
13 (Apr 6)	Module 10. Food Safety Modernization Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 10 Quiz (Apr 6-10) Final Project (Due on Apr 20)
14 (Apr 13)	Module 11. Florida Food Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 4 (Module 9-11) (Apr 17)
15 (Apr 20)	Course Reflection (No new module open)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra-credit Reflection Survey (Apr 20-24) Extra-credit Post-assessment (Apr 20-24)

University Policies

Academic Policies and Resources:

Academic policies for this course are consistent with [university policies](#).

Software Use Policy:

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.

Online Security and Privacy:

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it
- Always log out when you are finished using the system

This course offers pre-recorded video lectures so there will be **no recording of class sessions**. For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Adobe
 - [Adobe Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Adobe Accessibility](#)
- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Microsoft
 - [Microsoft Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Microsoft Accessibility](#)
- YouTube (Google)
 - [YouTube \(Google\) Privacy Policy](#)
 - [YouTube \(Google\) Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)

Student Help

Technical Difficulties

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- [UF Help Desk](#)
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Campus Health and Wellness Resources for Students

University offers resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. For details, visit [Whole Gator](#).

For immediate support or if you or someone you know is in distress, contact [U Matter We Care](#) to refer or report a concern.