COURSE NAME: GISC 4305 Legal Aspects of Spatial Information    3 sem hr.

LECTURE TIMES: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50 AM

LECTURE LOCATION: CS-108

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Gary A. Jeffress, RPLS
Office: CBI 110, Phone: 825-2720
EMail: gary.jeffress@tamucc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Legal ownership of spatial data and information collected in the public sector. Public access to large digital databases. Copyright law as applied to spatial data. Legal issues related to property boundaries, statutory boundaries, voter district boundaries, and jurisdictional boundaries. Government fees and charges for access to Spatial data. Social and economic value of spatial data. Prerequisites: GISC 2470, COSC 1372.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Understand the origins of legal principles and how they are applied to spatial information.
2. Familiarize with the concepts of open records and copyright.
3. Be familiar with the way legal issues change over time.
4. Understand the concepts of statute law and common law as applied to spatial information.
5. Understand some legal requirements for running a business.
6. Undertake an oral and visual presentation of a researched precedent setting legal case.

SUGGESTED TEXT:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Course requirements include the following:
1) Attendance at lectures.
2) Completion and hand in of assignments by the due date.
3) Attendance and completion of quizzes on the scheduled date and time.
4) Participation in class discussion.
### COURSE OUTLINE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>Overview of course objectives and requirements. Definitions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 TYPES OF LAW</td>
<td>The history of the development of law in Texas and the United States. Civil law, common law, statute law, and case law</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 LAND INFORMATION AND THE LAW</td>
<td>The legal cases under which land tenure has evolved. The development of land law from cases in Texas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 EVOLUTION OF LEGAL ASPECTS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION</td>
<td>The reliance of spatial information in decision making and the liabilities of providing information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 DEEDS RECORDING AND OTHER SPATIAL PUBLIC RECORDS IN THE UNITED STATES</td>
<td>The development of the County Courthouse system of deeds recording and other spatial data available to the public. The case in Texas and the US.</td>
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<td>6 COPYRIGHT</td>
<td>The reason copyright and where it can be used in spatial information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 MISREPRESENTATION OF SPATIAL INFORMATION</td>
<td>Technical and liability issues in providing incorrect spatial information</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 CONTRACTUAL ISSUES IN PROVIDING SPATIAL INFORMATION</td>
<td>The principles behind the use of contracts and their use in providing spatial information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 OPEN RECORDS LAWS</td>
<td>How open records have been drafted and put into effect. Issues related to spatial information and open records.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 COURT CASES INVOLVING SPATIAL INFORMATION</td>
<td>A review of court cases that have provided a legal interpretation of the liability of providing spatial information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 LEGAL ASPECTS OF GEOMATICS/GIS BUSINESS OPERATION</td>
<td>A review of legal aspects of running a business for profit. Includes topics on employees, OSHA requirements, insurance on liability, and contractual arrangements with clients</td>
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1 Subject to change.
ASSESSMENT:

1) Assignment on legal research.

2) Mid-semester Quiz.

3) Research assignment on Geomatics/GIS case law.

4) Oral presentation of court case research.

5) End-semester Quiz.

Grade allocations.

1) 20%
2) 20%
3) 25%
4) 15%
5) 20%

TOTAL 100%

Grade Computation:

A >90
B >80 and <90
C >70 and <80
D >60 and <70
F <60

The Geographic Information Science Program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from TAMU-CC Services for Students with Disabilities Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (located in Driftwood 101) at 825-5816. It is important that you contact them in a timely fashion as it may take several days to review requests and prepare accommodations.

**CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE USED IN CLASS**
Student Security Statement
(To be attached to all School of Engineering and Computing Sciences syllabi)

This document is to inform you of the policies that you must follow to allow your usage of student computer resources in the Department of Computing Sciences (CSCI). This document provides a summary of the guidelines for using CSCI student computer resources. If you have questions or are uncertain whether a proposed action is appropriate, discuss them with your faculty member or go to original documents. These computer systems are primarily located in CL 226, 228, 229 230, 344, 346 and ST 111, 116, 208, 209, 214, 217, 220, 221. Most the computers in these rooms are dual-boot Windows XP and LINUX or Window XP only. All share a common network server where student files are maintained.

These computers are to be used by computing sciences students and faculty to research and learn about computers, programming, and networks. They have been specially configured to allow students to explore these areas. They include tools for writing programs, compiling programs, monitoring networks, accomplishing word processing, and many more specialized tasks.

This is a shared system, with many users. Usage of these systems is encouraged for appropriate computer science learning and research. If all students cooperate and share these resources appropriately, everyone usage of this system will be enhanced. On the other hand, if students misuse these resources, run programs that take inordinate computer resources (there are other systems available for programs that require large resources), everyone’s response time will be slowed.

User Accountability. Students are accountable for their actions and may be held accountable to applicable administrative and/or legal sanctions.

Resource Use. Computers, software, and communications systems provided by CSCI are to be used only for TAMUCC class related work. CSCI systems are provided to our users without any warranty. CSCI will not be held liable in the event of any system failure or loss of data.

Passwords and Usernames. Your campus wide user name is used on these computers. The initial password is your initial 1-6 digits of your SSN. This password should immediately be changed during your first logon to this system. This is accomplished by using a browser and entering this URL: http://www.sci.tamu.edu/password. New passwords should be at least 8 characters long, contain numbers, upper and lower case letters, and special characters. Passwords must not be shared with any other person and must be changed as soon as possible after they have been exposed to unauthorized personnel, when a suspected compromise has taken place, or by direction of a CSCI faculty/staff member.

Software Use. All software used on CSCI computers must be legally acquired and used in accordance with the licensing agreement that came with that software. Possession, use or transmission of illegally obtained software is prohibited. Likewise, users shall not copy, store or transfer copyrighted software or data, except as permitted by the owner of the copyright, this includes storing copyrighted music, movies, or photographs on the system, unless appropriate permission has been received.

Software on these systems are governed by software license agreements, that limit how this software may be used. Users may not copy or otherwise use this software on other computers than those where it was initially installed. This includes copying student created programs from other users, where permission has not been obtained. Software that has not been legally procured and installed by computer administration personnel is not allowed on these systems.

Prohibited Actions.

- Do not share your passwords with anyone. As account holder, you are liable for any misuse that originates from your account.
- Do not use the department’s computing resources for personal, political, and commercial activities. Strictly use the resources for your education and research in computing sciences as per instructions of your professor.
- Do not use the department’s computing and networking resources to download any unauthorized or illegal software or data in any form including audios, texts, videos, images, and animations.
- Do not install any unauthorized software or store any unauthorized or illegal files in any form on the department’s computers.
- Do not use the department’s computing resources to duplicate electronically any unauthorized or illegal documents.
- Do not harass or threaten any user by sending messages via email or any other way.
- Do not engage in any subverting activities such as deleting or modifying system files, installing unauthorized hardware, tampering with existing hardware, infecting computer systems with viruses.
- Do not disrupt and attack services on department’s servers.
- Do not reveal or attempt to reveal private information of other users using any hardware or software tools.
- Never use the computing resources of the department to attack any computer or network in the university or on the Internet.
- Users are prohibited from changing or circumventing access controls to allow themselves or others to perform actions outside their authorized privileges.
- Users must not intentionally introduce or use malicious software such as computer viruses, Trojan horses, or worms.

Users must not download/install or run security programs or utilities that reveal or exploit weaknesses in the security of a system.

All pornographic, harassing, or discriminatory pictures, movies, games and programs are specifically prohibited.

Data Retention. CSCI reserves the right to remove any data at any time. The CSCI makes no warranty for information stored in this system. Students are responsible for keeping a backup copy of all information. Normally, information will be retained between semesters as long as a student remains enrolled computer science classes. Data on client computers (not stored on a server), is routinely removed between semester or when any problem occurs with a system.

Monitoring and Privacy. Users have no explicit or implicit expectation of privacy. CSCI and TAMUCC Computer Services monitors the activities that occur on these computers and the content of all files on CSCI systems and networks and will access any computer files without prior knowledge or consent of users, senders or recipients. CSCI and TAMUCC Computer Services may retain copies of any network traffic, computer files or messages indefinitely without prior knowledge or consent of the student.

Games and Other Inappropriate Computer Usage. These systems are not to be used for entertainment purposes. All games, entertainment programs, music, movies, and similar programs/files are not authorized. The exceptions to this are student created programs/files done for class work or research. If in doubt, contact a CSCI faculty member.

Disciplinary Responsibilities. Violations of these guidelines will be processed in accordance with University rules for Student Disciplinary Proceedings, 13.02.99.C1 and the Student Code of Conduct (Student Handbook, Section 5). According to the Student Handbook, the Dean of the College of Science and Technology is responsible for all academic disciplinary actions whereas the Office of the Student Affairs is responsible for all non-academic disciplinary actions. Depending on the degree and extent of a violation, a penalty can be as severe as expulsion of the student from the university. In case of severe violations such as violations of Texas Penal Code, complaints will be filed with legal authorities by the Chief of Police on behalf of the university.

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