EXAS

UNITES - CORPUS CHRIST

PARTMENT OF COMPUTING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCE

EOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE PROGRAM

FALL 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Bridget Brundrett, RPLS
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I. COURSE FORMAT: Lecture and Online Course are offered.
COURSE NAME: GISC 4318.001 CADASTRAL SYSTEMS 3 semester hrs.
LECTURE TIMES: TUES & THURS 5:30 – 6:45pm or Online
LECTURE LOCATION: EN 108
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only.

Note: Bridget Brundrett, RPLS, reserves the right to change this syllabus at anytime.
It is the student’s responsibility to have the most current syllabus.

II. Course Description
LAND OWNERSHIP RECORDING SYSTEMS USED IN TEXAS AND U.S.
INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH FOR ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL BOUNDARIES.
TITLE SEARCHES AT COUNTY COURT HOUSE, TITLE PLANTS, AND THE TEXAS
GENERAL LAND OFFICE. OTHER SOURCES FOR CADASTRAL RESEARCH. RIPARIAN
AND LITTORAL BOUNDARIES. BOUNDARY MARKING AND PREPARATION OF
CADASTRAL PLANS. METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTIONS. WRITING FIELD NOTES.
URBAN AND RURAL CADASTRAL ISSUES. USE OF COORDINATE SYSTEMS IN
CADASTRAL MAPPING.

III. Prerequisites:
GISC 3412 or equivalent.

IV. Suggested Texts:

V. Course Objectives:
1. TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE AVAILABLE SOURCES FOR
RESEARCHING BOUNDARY LINES AND OWNERSHIP RIGHTS.
2. TO LEARN BOUNDARY LAWS PERTINENT TO LAND SURVEYING.
3. TO BE ABLE TO READ AND WRITE FIELD NOTE DESCRIPTIONS.
4. TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE CADAstral MAPS WITH ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION.

VI. Evaluation and grade assignment
The final grade for this course will be made up from the graded marks as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test One</td>
<td>20% of grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Two</td>
<td>20% of grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>20% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>40% of grade</td>
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Class Attendance: Students should follow the university policy as stated in the catalog. 
Three (3) unexcused absences will lower student Final Grade by one letter grade.

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.

VII. Course Schedule

Lectures:
“Decisions” and the “Surveyor Reference Manual” will be used to produce lecture notes and format for course, but are not required purchases for enrolled students. All Quizzes and Tests are based on information presented in lectures. Textbooks are not required at each class meeting; however, attendance and participation is required.

Assignments:
Projects consist of written papers & working sketches, Tests, Quizzes

Projects (Subject to Change, but include a few of the following):

1. RESEARCH PROJECT USING RESOURCES SUCH AS THE NUECES COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE, AND/OR OTHER ONLINE SOURCES
2. SURVEYING PROJECT INVOLVING RESEARCH AND MAP PREPARATION
3. CASE LAW RESEARCH
4. PREPARATION OF WORKING SKETCH FROM A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION
5. WRITING A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION
6. SURVEY OF SUBDIVISION LOT
Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. 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. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC ADVISING: The College of Science and Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor (Ms. Frances Jordan - Office: CI 364. Phone: 825-5797. Zip+4: 5806. URL: http://www.sci.tamucc.edu/camsadvising/. Email: frances.jordan@tamucc.edu) as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair.

GRADE APPEALS: A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01 Student Grade Appeal Procedures (http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school or the College of Science and Engineering Dean’s Office.

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GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COURSES AND LABS IN THE GISC PROGRAM
CULTURE, REGULATIONS, MODES OF OPERATION, AND PROCEDURES

These guidelines are designed to inform scholars of their responsibilities and of the course requirements in order to make this course a positive experience. The instructor is always available for consultation and discussion with students on any aspect of a course and of these general guidelines.

CLASS CULTURE

1. Consider yourself as a scholar rather than a student. The term “student” may imply some passivity, whereas the term “scholar” implies active participation, understanding, and searching. We will use these terms interchangeably with the meaning of “scholar” implied. Osmosis does not work in a learning environment! A good scholar takes NOTES at every class meeting.

2. Further, define yourself as a “thinking explorer”. You are responsible for your education; an instructor can only be a guide and a facilitator. An instructor cannot learn for you. If you come across something that really interests you, explore it further.

3. Your experience at this University should not consist of passing a series of courses to earn a
degree. Your experience should rather be a series of activities that will give you an education.

4. Concentrate on “learning to learn”. You will have to be a life-long learner to survive in your chosen career.

5. There is no such thing as a stupid question; there is such a thing as a stupid answer. So ask questions, the instructor is taking all the risks! Ask questions of your instructor and of your fellow scholars. Many times questions are more important than answers.

6. Keep copious notes of all that is going on in all the meetings related to your course. Make a note of what the instructor is stressing. At the end of each lecture you should be able to answer two questions: What did I learn from this lecture? and What was not clear to me? At the beginning of each lecture, if the instructor does not ask for questions, you need to ask if there is something you did not understand from the last lecture. Review, consolidate, annotate and organize your lecture/lab notes on a regular basis, at least once a week. The Internet is a tremendous resource and also a great danger. When you find information on the Internet, you have no idea if it is correct. View such information with caution. But, use the Internet to explore topics that interest you. Do not only prepare for the exam in a course – learn as much as you can on the topics introduced to you by the course material. You are responsible for the extent of your education! READ MINDFULLY !!!!!

7. In addition to details of the syllabus given in class, the syllabus for the course includes all the chapters of the required textbook/s unless indicated otherwise by the instructor. The student is responsible for all materials/topics covered in class, in handouts, in assignments, in labs, and in outings or field trips. The instructor is NOT responsible for informing absent students exactly what was covered in previous classes, meetings, etc.

PROCEDURES & REGULATIONS

8. The final letter grade for the class will be based on the raw composite numerical score obtained from the weighted average of the tests, quizzes, exams, labs, etc. as indicated by the instructor. The raw composite numerical score may be adjusted (curved) based on the highest score, the statistical profile of the scores and other academic standards or other considerations. Generally the letter grade of A is 90% and over of the adjusted score, a B is between 80% and 89% (inclusive) of the adjusted score, a C is between 70% and 79% (inclusive) of the adjusted score, a D is below 70% of the adjusted score and an F is below 60% of the adjusted score. An incomplete (I) will only be given in very unusual circumstances. The University regulations on incomplete grades state: “An incomplete notation may be given to a student who is passing but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control other than the lack of time”. Students are expected to take ALL tests, quizzes, exams, etc., and to complete and hand in all labs and other assignments. There is no provision for “extra credit”. No final grades will be given via the telephone, e-mail, etc.

9. All University rules, regulations and expected student conduct apply to this course. Students are held responsible for the information given in the current Catalog and Student Handbook. Make yourself aware of the University security regulations.

10. All assignments, etc. must be handed in on the assigned due date. Scholars having problems must notify the instructor well before the due date. Marks will be deducted for poor and sloppily presented work.

11. Scholars are asked to take special note of the penalties, which the University attaches to Academic Dishonesty. Consult the Student Handbook.

12. All work handed in to the instructor must be the student’s own work. Extracts, excerpts, etc. from the work of others must be suitably noted, acknowledged and properly referenced. Any Group Work will be judged in the same way. That is, it is the work of the group and
the extracts, excerpts, etc. of others must be acknowledged.

13. All written and graphical work handed in must be presented neatly printed and bound (staples are adequate). Students’ written work will be judged on written communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving ability.

14. Students are expected to be present at all meetings (lectures, labs, etc.) of the class. Students are expected to be present at the date and time assigned for all tests, exams, quizzes, etc. There are NO provisions for making up missed exams except in cases where prior arrangements have been made and agreed to by the instructor. During the assigned lab session, ONLY assigned labs are to be done. All other work must be done in other rooms.

15. All cellular phones and other similar devices MUST BE TURNED OFF during lectures, labs and other class meetings.

16. All students must keep their university e-mail addresses (firstnamefirstletterlastname@islander.tamu.edu). This will be the means of communication between the instructor and the class.

17. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the above with due notice to the students. These changes will be announced in class and each student is responsible for keeping herself/himself informed of such changes.