COURSE NAME: GSEN 5381: Cadastral Information Systems Design 3 SCR

LECTURE TIMES: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

LECTURE LOCATION: CBI 104

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Gary A. Jeffress, RPLS
Office: CBI 109, Phone: 361-825-2720
EMail: gary.jeffress@tamucc.edu

CONSULTATION: 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Monday and Wednesday or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The evolution of European cadastral systems and land records traditions and alternatives reviewed; goals and purposes of land tenure systems with attention to social, political, legal, economic, organizational, technical issues examined; U.S. modernization efforts and problems of developing countries explored.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the principles of land ownership recording systems.
2. Familiarize with the concepts of land administration, conveyancing, and real estate markets.
3. Be familiar with the modern cadastral systems.
4. Understand the challenges of implementing cadastral systems in developing countries.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course requirements include the following:
1) It is the student’s responsibility to check emails and Blackboard concerning course materials and to seek information from the Internet.
2) Completion and submission of assignments and Major Project by the due date.
3) Completion of quiz on the scheduled date and time.
4) Participation in Blackboard discussion.
COURSE OUTLINE:

TOPICS

1. INTRODUCTION: Overview of course objectives and requirements. Definitions. History of cadastral systems.

2. PRINCIPLES OF CADASTRAL SYSTEMS: Examples of cadastral systems presented. The role of the Surveying Profession in the cadastre.

3. CADASTRAL SYSTEMS AND THE LAW: Examine the relationship between the legal system and the cadastral system. Examples from Texas and Australia.

4. IMPORTANCE OF CADASTRAL SYSTEMS: A look at the economic impact of land and real estate ownership.

5. DIGITAL ORGANIZATION OF CADASTRAL SYSTEMS: Show examples of automated cadastral systems.

6. CADASTRAL SYSTEMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: Examples of cadastral systems in developing countries and strategies to improve these systems.

7. WORLDWIDE INTEREST IN CADASTRAL SYSTEMS: A look at current trends in the advancement of cadastral systems throughout the world.

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1 Subject to change.
ASSESSMENT:

1) Major Project Report and presentation 50%
2) Participation. 15%
2) Mid-semester Quiz. 20%
4) Assignments 15%
TOTAL 100%

Grade Computation:

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The Geospatial Surveying Engineering 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 contact 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.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Technological Excuses:
Hard drive crashes and other computer woes will not be accepted as excuses for late submission. Students should, given the complexity of the tasks they will pursue, be sure that they maintain adequate backup copies of all aspects of their work. Additionally, plan ahead so that you will have time to use the on-campus computers and printers if necessary. You may NOT submit papers/assignments by e-mail. If for some reason you feel you have to do this, you must ask for, and receive, permission ahead of time; furthermore, you may not consider an e-mailed paper/assignment to be submitted until you have received a reply confirming that I have received the paper/assignment.

Disabilities Accommodations:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising:**
The College of Science and Technology requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor 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. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350, and can be reached at (361) 825-6094.

**Academic Honesty:**
Cheating and plagiarism will automatically earn zero (0) points for the assignment or exam. All academic work must meet the standards contained in the 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog, pages 28-29, sections titled "Academic Integrity" and "Academic Honesty" available at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/catalog10/graduate/policies.pdf and/or Undergraduate Catalog, pages 40-41, sections titled "Academic Integrity" and "Academic Honesty" available at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/catalog10/undergraduate/policies.pdf

Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing academic work.

**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.

**Computing and Internet requirements**
All students enrolling in online courses are required to have:
- Windows Operating System (Vista/7/8).
- Adobe PDF viewer. (e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader).
- Video player able to play MPEG-4 video (Quicktime, VLC, Windows Media Player).
- Web browser with Java Virtual Machine installed.
- Speakers or headphones connected to computer.
- Microphone or headset connected to computer.
- Web camera connected to computer.
- Consistent access to high-speed internet during the entire semester.
- Additional required software as assigned.

All students are required to set up a campus email address upon enrollment and check this email address on a regular basis.

**Online Teaching Methods**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi provides students and faculty with software to ensure online students receive the same level of instruction as students in the classroom. The main interface for both online and in-class course material is **Blackboard**. Blackboard is the online location in which each course instructor places all teaching material (syllabus, announcements, course content, assignments, tutorials, instructional material, web links, documents, presentations, tests, quizzes, examinations, etc.) and has tools for discussion sessions, chat, blogs, wikis, and help resources.

Lectures are recorded using **WebEx** software. This software allows the in-class recording of the instructor’s video or voice along with whatever is presented onscreen, which is displayed to the class. A link to each in-class lecture is provided on Blackboard, which allows online students to view the lecture by streaming the lecture to their own computer. Instructors may also place lectures or videos on content delivery platforms, such as YouTube, and will provide links to this content through Blackboard. Please note that all original material created by the instructor posted on Blackboard (e.x. WebEx recordings, YouTube videos, assignments, lecture slides, etc…) falls under the copyright ownership of the instructor.
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COURSES AND LABS
IN THE GSEN 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 65% 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 labs, 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. Labs, etc. handed in after the due date may be subject to a penalty of loss of marks. Labs, etc. handed in after the graded labs, etc. have been returned to students will get zero marks but must be handed in to the instructor. Labs will be returned to students, after they have been graded, at a class meeting. Students who miss this meeting will be able to collect graded work during the instructor’s office hours or next class meeting.

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

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

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

17. All students must keep their university e-mail addresses (firstname.lastname@islander.tamucc.edu). This will be the means of communication between the instructor and the class.

18. 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.