GISC 4305.001/W01 – Legal Aspects of Spatial Information
Geographic Information Science Program
Spring 2016

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GISC 4305.001/W01
Class meeting time: Lecture: MWF 10:00-10:50; or Online
Class location: IH 164: or Online
Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Tony Nettleman, RPLS. Esq.
Office location: CBI 105
Office hours: M/W 11am – 2pm; Friday 9am – 12pm
Telephone: 361-825-3419
e-mail: Charles.Nettleman@tamucc.edu
Appointments: email for times

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog 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

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
GISC 2470, COSC 1372

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
Brown's Boundary Control and Legal Principles, (Robillard, 2013)

Supplies

- Windows Operating System (XP/Vista/7/8).
- Adobe PDF viewer. (e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader).
- Web browser with Java Virtual Machine installed.
- Video player able to play MPEG-4 video (Quicktime, VLC, Windows Media Player).
- Speakers/headphones.
- Online students: Microphone and webcam.
- Online students: Consistent, weekly access to high-speed internet.
F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the significance of land boundaries and how they are created (f, g, j, k).
2. Create and interpret property descriptions for deeds (a, d, f, j, k).
3. Analyze the differences between metes and bounds and GLO/PLSS land systems (f, j, k).
4. Understand how easements are created, conveyed, and terminated (a, d, f, k).
5. Explain the role of the surveyor and what is ethically permitted during the course of business (f, j, k).
6. Undertake presentation of precedent setting case law.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

All lectures will be presented live in the classroom and recorded for posting online. In-person students will attend live lectures and labs while online students will watch lecture recordings and complete labs on their own time.

Lectures will be held twice a week, skill checks will be given once a week, and quizzes will be randomly given throughout the semester. Four projects will be assigned with two weeks to complete each project. Finally, a midterm and final exam will be administered.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through two examinations, quizzes, and a project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skill Checks and Attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>History and concept of boundaries</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>How Boundaries are Created</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Non-sectionalized Boundaries</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Public Land Survey System</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Public Land Survey System</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Easements</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Intro to Conveyances</td>
<td>8, 11, 12</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Simultaneous and Sequential Conveyances</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Understanding Land Descriptions</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Riparian Boundaries</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Hypotheticals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Role of the Surveyor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Hypotheticals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Adverse Possession</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Final Exam Prep</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- **Classroom/Professional Behavior**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each
individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

• **Statement of Civility**
The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

• **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/)) for the last day to drop a course.

• **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 upon 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, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](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, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

• **Disability Services**
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 (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

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.

http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

- **Statement of Academic Continuity**
  In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**K. OTHER INFORMATION**

- **Academic Advising**
  The College of Science & Engineering 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. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

**GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.