Legal Aspects of Spatial Information – GISC 4305.001/W01  
Geographic Information Science Program  
Spring 2018

A. COURSE INFORMATION
Course number/section: GISC 4305.001/W01  
Class meeting time: Lecture: MWF 08:00-08:50; or Online  
Class location: CI 107: or Online  
Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Tony Nettleman, PSM, Esq.  
Office location: CBI 105  
Office hours: M/W 7AM to 8AM and 10AM to 11AM; Friday 11AM to 12PM; or by appt.  
Telephone: 361-825-3419  
E-mail: Charles.Nettleman@tamucc.edu

Please be aware that e-mails are typically returned within 24 hours and I will be traveling throughout the semester (dates will be posted shortly before each trip). For immediate assistance, please call my office phone.

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, 2014)

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. Find, read, and interpret 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 @ 150)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 @ 30)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects (4 @ 75)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cases and Ethics Responses (12 @ 12.5)</td>
<td>15</td>
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## I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTERS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>ASSESSMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Case Law</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>History and concept of boundaries</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Case Brief &amp; Ethics (How-To)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>How Boundaries are Created</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td>Quiz #1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Non-sectionalized Boundaries</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ethics Memo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Public Land Survey System</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Easements</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ethics Memo</td>
<td>Quiz #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Midterm Exam: Monday is Exam, Wednesday is Post-Exam Review</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Project #3 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Intro to Conveyances</td>
<td>11 and 12</td>
<td>Ethics Memo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Simultaneous and Sequential Conveyances</td>
<td>11 and 12</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Understanding Land Descriptions</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td>Quiz #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Riparian Boundaries</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ethics Memo</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Role of the Surveyor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ethics Memo</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Adverse Possession Handout</td>
<td>Handout</td>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td>Quiz #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Land Surveyor as an Expert Witness</td>
<td>Handout</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Final Exam: Check for Time &amp; Date!</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.

Any students that miss more than 4 classes as un-excused absences or are late for class for an un-excused reason will receive an administrative “F.”
J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Students are expected to attend regular class and lab meetings. Online students are expected to regularly log in to the course website, watch lectures, and submit assignments.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
No late work will be accepted outside the excused absences listed in the TAMUCC student handbook.

Extra Credit
+2 points for the first student to find any errata in the course materials or field manual.

Food in Class
Please do not disturb anyone while eating or drinking.

Email
Consider email as official correspondence warranting professional language. Professional emails include elements such as a short descriptive subject line, salutation, complete inquiry in the body of the message, your full name, and course and section number. Unprofessional emails will result in a non-response and request for proper correspondence.

Prior Learning and Lecture Slides
The professor will assume that prior to class you have made an earnest effort to understand the material. This will allow you to be prepared to engage the material in more detail or address misunderstandings in class. The slides in class are primarily for visual learners who need to both hear words and see text as they are learning. They are not meant for students to copy as a substitute for prior studying and learning. As such, students should not frantically try to write down everything from the lecture slides. Lecture is simply another time and place to encounter the material again since repeat exposure helps with memory and understanding. As such, your in-class lecture notes do not need to be extremely lengthy. Additionally, please pay attention to what is not on the slides, that is, the extra examples and vocabulary the professor mentions that are related to the slides.

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.

Communication about Life Events
It is your (student’s) responsibility to keep up with the course instruction, assignments, and examinations. Should a life event interrupt your ability to meet these responsibilities, you must inform the instructor about this as soon as possible and within a reasonable amount of time so that a course of action can be determined. Communicating with the instructor about these life events in an unreasonable time frame is not acceptable and will not change the outcome of missed work nor will it be a valid reason to receive an ‘Incomplete’ designation for the course.
Originality of Work
Every exam and lab assignment for this class must be your own work. You may ask for clarification and assistance, but you may not copy or use anyone else’s work for any reason in this course, unless explicitly stated in a lab assignment or exam.

Note to Online Students
Lecture recordings will be made available online immediately after the in-class meeting. It is your responsibility to watch the recordings in every week so you stay up with the course. Laboratory assignments will be completed on your home computer and must be submitted digitally to the Island Online on a weekly basis. You are responsible for installing and testing the GIS software during the first week of class and keeping your home computer in good working order.

Online Exam Proctoring
For students taking the course online, you will take your tests remotely and they will be proctored by a service called Examity®. To use Examity®, you will need to make sure you meet the following technical requirements, in addition to the technical requirements set forth elsewhere in this syllabus:

- You must take your exam on a computer with a webcam and a microphone (both built-in and external are fine.)
- You must take your exam from a location that with sufficient internet speed: at least 700KBPS upload and download speed. You can test your internet speed at http://www.speedtest.net.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Examity’s technical support team 24/7 via email at support@examity.com or phone at (855)-392-6489. Examity involves third party charges. Exam-proctoring charges may range from $3 - $31.50 per exam. Students may be required to schedule exams at least 24 hours in advance or incur late scheduling charges. All costs for exams are the responsibility of the student. Students will also be responsible for providing webcams to be used in test proctoring.

K. 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
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)
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic 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, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at 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.

L. 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.