HISTORY OF TEXAS LAND OWNERSHIP – GISC 4371
DEPARTMENT COMPUTING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCE
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE PROGRAM
SPRING 2018

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GISC 4371- W01
Class meeting time: Online
Class location: Online
Course Website: www.bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Russell Ochs, RPLS
Office location: N/A
Office hours: Online
Telephone: 361-882-7330
e-mail: rochs01@yahoo.com
Appointments: Text or email to schedule an appointment.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description

Extended Course Description

There will be 2 Projects assigned throughout the semester which will include 2 of the following:

1.) Texas Professional Land Surveying Practices Act
2.) Surveying Project Involving Research and Map Preparation
3.) Metes and Bounds Description with Field Sketch
4.) Online Research utilizing the Texas General Land Office website
This course will prepare students by providing proper knowledge of how land transferred throughout the History of Texas and techniques for researching land ownership in the present. Students will also receive an overview of legal aspects and other topics relative to land issues applicable for Land Surveyors, Civil Engineers, and GIS professionals, among others.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
GISC 3412 – Geospatial Plane Measurement II

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)

Supplies
None.

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. Working knowledge on how land in Texas has been transferred throughout history and the applicability in professions today, such as land surveying.
2. Understanding the importance and functions of the Texas General Land Office.
3. Developing maps illustrating past cadastral and understanding the diversity of Texas Land Transfer.
4. Utilizing techniques to comprehend and prepare metes and bounds (Field Notes) descriptions.
5. Understanding the ethical principles involved with the Texas Professional Surveying Land Practices Act & General Rules of Procedures
G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

This course will utilize web based research tools, including, but not limited to the Texas General Land Office Website, the Appraisal District Website, TexasFile – Deed Research Website, and other web tools. Each class will include lecture material and examples from each Chapter in the book. All lecture notes, handouts and examples will be posted on Blackboard for future reference. All Quizzes and Exams will be posted on Blackboard for completion. Exam questions will be taken directly from the lecture notes or material covered in the lecture. If you are not in class or do not watch the lecture video, you may miss important information that is included on Quizzes or Exams.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

There will be a Quiz every week in class. All Quizzes will be Multiple Choice and True/False. The Instructor will go over every Quiz during the next class period to insure students understand the questions and material presented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
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I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE (BY DAY OR WEEK)</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI. – 01/19/18</td>
<td>SYLLABUS &amp; SPANISH TEXAS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>EMAIL CONTACT INFO.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 01/26/18</td>
<td>SPANISH &amp; MEXICAN TEXAS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>QUIZ 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANUARY 24TH</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO LATE REGISTER OR ADD A CLASS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 02/02/18</td>
<td>TEXAS SOVEREIGN</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>QUIZ 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 02/09/18</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING REGULATIONS &amp; STANDARDS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>QUIZ 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 02/16/18</td>
<td>PUBLIC LAND STATUTES</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>QUIZ 4 – PROJECT 1</td>
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<td>FRI. – 02/23/18</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT CODES – EVIDENCE OF POSSESSIVE</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>QUIZ 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Week(s)</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. - 03/02/18</td>
<td>PRESUMPTIONS, INTENTIONS &amp; FOOTSTEPS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>QUIZ 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. - 03/09/18</td>
<td>EXAM 1 - MIDTERM</td>
<td>1-7</td>
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<td>FRI. – 03/16/18</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 03/23/18</td>
<td>CALL &amp; CONFLICTS / DEEDS &amp; DESCRIPTIONS</td>
<td>8 &amp; 12</td>
<td>QUIZ 7</td>
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<td>FRI. – 03/30/18</td>
<td>METES &amp; BOUNDS DESCRIPTIONS</td>
<td>8 &amp; 12</td>
<td>PROJECT 2</td>
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<td>FRI. – 04/06/18</td>
<td>TRAVELED WAYS &amp; EASEMENTS</td>
<td>9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>QUIZ 8</td>
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<td>APRIL 6TH</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 04/13/18</td>
<td>WATER BOUNDARIES</td>
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<td>FRI. – 04/20/18</td>
<td>WATER BOUNDARIES</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>QUIZ 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI. – 04/27/18</td>
<td>APPORTIONMENT, EXCESS, DEFICIENCIES &amp; VACANCIES</td>
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<td>FRI. – 05/02/18</td>
<td>READING DAY</td>
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<td>MAY 3-4 7-9</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>ALL CHAPTERS</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. **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance/Tardiness**
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.**
PLEASE BE ON TIME, THE CLASS WILL START PROMPTLY AT 11:00 AM. If you are going to miss class, notify the instructor ahead of time.

**Late Work and Make-up Exams**
For excused absences, the instructor will allow work to be turned in late. This is at the discretion of the instructor.

**Cell Phone Use**
Please turn off your cell phone during class. If you need to answer a call, please quietly leave the room to answer your phone.

**Laptop Use**
Laptop use is allowed if the student desires. All lecture notes, lecture video and examples utilized during class will be available on Blackboard for your review.

Food in Class
This is a long class during the lunch hour. You are permitted to eat and bring drinks to class. Please properly dispose of all food items after class.

Missed Exam
If you miss an exam, contact the instructor immediately for a make-up exam.

Participation
Participation during class is encouraged. Please ask questions and participate in your learning experience.

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)**
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 be 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/](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.