GISC 4305_001 – Legal Aspects of Spatial Information  
Geographic Information Science Program  
Spring 2020

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section:  GISC 4305.001  
Class meeting time:  Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15  
Class location:  BH 207  
Course Website:  http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:  Dr. Davey Edwards, PLS LSLS CFedS  
Office location:  CBI 105  
Office hours:  W 8:00-9:00 & 10:00-12:30; Th 9:30-11:00  
Telephone:  361-825-3419  
e-mail:  davey.edwards@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, 7th Ed (Robillard)

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.

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<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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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Projects</td>
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I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>History and concept of boundaries</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>How Boundaries are Created</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Non-sectionalized Boundaries</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Public Land Survey System</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Public Land Survey System</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Easements</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>Exam</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Intro to Conveyances</td>
<td>8, 11, 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Simultaneous and Sequential Conveyances</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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Understanding Land Descriptions
13
Riparian Boundaries
9
Assignment
Ethics
15
Role of the Surveyor
14
Project
Adverse Possession
TBA
Final Exam Prep
N/A
Exams

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 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/) 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/](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.

**I. 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.