GISC 4318 – Cadastral Systems
Department of Computer Science
Fall 2020

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GISC 4318-001
Class meeting time: T R 9:30am-10:45am; Asynchronous lectures
Class location: Full Online Lecture
Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Davey Edwards, PhD, PLS LSLS CFedS
Office location: CBI 105
Office hours: M (10am-12pm) T (11am-1pm) F (11am-12pm)*
Telephone: (361) 825-3419
e-mail: davey.edwards@tamucc.edu
Appointments: Bb Messages in Course preferred; email alternative

* - Office hours availability either via face-to-face or WebEx. Please message to confirm.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Land ownership recording systems used in Texas and U.S. Investigation and research for
artificial and natural boundaries. Title searches at county courthouse, title plants, and the Texas
General Land Office. Other sources for cadastral research. Riparian and littoral boundaries.
Boundary marking and preparation of cadastral plans. Metes and bounds descriptions. Writing
field notes. Urban and rural cadastral issues. Use of coordinate systems in cadastral mapping.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
GISC 3412

(A fundamental understanding of AutoDesk’s AutoCAD is expected)

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook
- Gold, Kenneth, (2009) Selected Texas Statutes and Boundary Decisions for Land
  Surveyors, Land Title Agents and Title Attorneys, 2nd Ed., Texas Society of
  Professional Surveyors, Austin, Texas.
- (2009) Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the
  United States, United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Cadastral Survey

**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. **Recall and compare** three land tenure systems within the United States; **List and describe** at least two advantages and disadvantages for each system.
2. **Locate** property records in local, state and federal government repositories; **Explain and describe** the types of records, applicable time-period, and the geographic scope of such records.
3. **Recognize and appreciate** the importance of reconciling the written land property records with field evidence to find the “true” scope and extent of real property rights and ownership.
4. **Identify and illustrate** the methods, procedures, and field exercises required to locate riparian boundaries in both tidal and non-tidal waterbodies.
5. **Demonstrate** an understanding of how oil & gas rights are (1) located, (2) valued and (3) protected.

**G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

The lecture will be a mix of live WebEx, prerecorded video lecture, assignments and evaluations through the Blackboard Learn.

**H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Throughout this course and lab, the students will be assessed through participation, assignments, and quizzes. Assignments and quizzes will be announced through the semester on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>55</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19-21</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Clark 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I: Land Tenure System</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24-28</td>
<td>Colonial States</td>
<td>Clark 6 - Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31- Sep 4</td>
<td>PLSS States</td>
<td>Clark 5 - Manual</td>
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<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Sep 8-11</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Gold Prologue – GLO handout</td>
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<td><strong>Part II: The Written Record</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 14-18</td>
<td>Deed Recording Types</td>
<td>Clark 18 – Gold 12 &amp; 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 21-25</td>
<td>Record Sources</td>
<td>Clark 18 – GLO – BLM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 28- Oct 2</td>
<td>County &amp; State Records</td>
<td>Clark 3 – County sources</td>
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<td><strong>Part III: The Physical Evidence</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 5-9</td>
<td>Introduction to Retracements</td>
<td>Clark 18 – Gold 7</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 12-16</strong></td>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
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<td>Oct 19-23</td>
<td>Texas Retracements</td>
<td>Gold 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 26-30</td>
<td>PLSS Retracements</td>
<td>Manual</td>
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<td><strong>Part IV: Water Boundaries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2-6</td>
<td>Introduction to Water Boundaries</td>
<td>Clark 24 – Gold 11</td>
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<td>Nov 9-13</td>
<td>Riparian &amp; Littoral Boundaries</td>
<td>Clark 25 – Gold 11</td>
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<td><strong>Part V: Oil &amp; Gas</strong></td>
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<td>Nov 23-27</td>
<td>Oil &amp; Gas</td>
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<td><strong>Nov 25</strong></td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
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<td><strong>Nov 30</strong></td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
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Dec 1-7 | FINALS

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

COVID-19
Face Coverings—Face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Extra masks will be made available if needed. Duration of labs due to the close interactions. Extra masks will be made available if needed.

Attendance/Tardiness
Lecture will primarily be asynchronous and will be required to view at your leisure. When live lecture is scheduled via WebEx, attendance is encouraged.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Late work is allowed but will be assessed a deduction if unexcused. Make-up quizzes are only allowed for excused absence.

Extra Credit
There is a possibility for extra credit, if needed. Will be announced later in the semester.

Cell Phone Use
Be respectful to your professor and other classmates.

Participation
Participation is required and is 10% of your total grade.

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/](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.C0.03, 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 required 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). 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/

- **Civil Rights Complaints**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free from discrimination, relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and ensuring that all affected students have access to services. For information on reporting Civil Rights complaints, options and support resources (including pregnancy support accommodations) or university policies and procedures, please contact the University Title IX Coordinator, Sam Ramirez (Samuel.ramirez@tamucc.edu) or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Rosie Ruiz (Rosie.Ruiz@tamucc.edu) x5826, or visit website at Title IX/Sexual Assault/Pregnancy.

**Limits to Confidentiality.** Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, are not able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report alleged or suspected civil rights discrimination that is observed by or made known to an employee in the course and scope of their employment. As the instructor, I must report allegations of civil rights discrimination, including sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator if you share it with me.

These reports will trigger contact with you from the Civil Rights/Title IX Compliance office who will inform you of your options and resources regarding the incident that you have shared. If you would like to talk about these incidents in a confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with counselors in the University Counseling Center.

- **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.