

The University of Texas at Tyler
Soules College of Business
Department of Technology

TECH 4341 – LEGAL PRINCIPLES IN SURVEYING AND MAPPING
Course Syllabus — Spring 2022
ONLINE CLASS

Terry J. Cowan
903-539-7124 - tcowan@uttyler.edu and barakoni54@gmail.com

Class Location. Online

Office Hours. I will not have formal office hours since this is an online course. Email is my preferred means of communication. If using my uttyler email, please cc barakoni54@gmail.com as well to ensure I that I see your message as soon as possible. Please text me to set up a phone conversation.

Course Description. This course is designed to aid the professional land surveyor of Texas. The class will examine the development of legal principles and court cases underlying land conveyances, both written and unwritten, and the related profession of land surveying, not only in Texas but throughout the United States. The course will examine boundary law including topics on conflict and litigation, courtroom presentation, determination of boundaries, evidence and procedures, as well as unique boundaries such as gradient and riparian.

Course Text. *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition by Walter G. Robillard, Donald A. Wilson and Curtis M. Brown

Course Objectives.

1. Examine the nature, scope and definition of evidence
2. Develop understanding of the Federal Land System in the U.S.
3. Understand unwritten transfers of property
4. Learn the essential components of a valid legal description
5. Study professional liability and stature
6. Examine the surveyor's role in courtroom testimony

Grading.

Short quizzes following most modules – 40%
Midterm exam – 25%
Final exam – 35%

Grade Scale Breakdown

A = 89.6 – 100%

B = 79.6 – 89.5%

C = 69.6 – 79.5%

D = 60 – 69.5%

F = BELOW 60%

Use of Canvas. Please use your UTT email ID and password to access Canvas. All class notes will be posted on Canvas for students to review. It is the students' responsibility to regularly check Canvas for assignments. Due to the nature of this course, students should check Canvas every day for announcements and discussion posts. It is the student's responsibility to read all correspondence and keep up with the due dates and deliverables for this course. The key to successful completion of this course, or any online course, is organization. This course is not a self-paced course and requires constant use of Canvas. Please keep up with all communications and deadlines, as deadlines exist because the course is offered within the UT Tyler course schedule and so that students can complete the course successfully in a timely manner.

Zoom Classes: I anticipate a Zoom lecture/class discussion on most Tuesdays during the semester. They will be at 7:00pm and will be announced on Canvas in the days preceding the lecture. I will not take attendance. The lectures are not required, but they are recommended.

University Policies. The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment of the award of a degree, and/or the submission, as one's own work of material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the students' official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.

Students Rights and Responsibilities. To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:
<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies. Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy. Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a disability diagnosis such as a chronic disease, learning disorder, head injury or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with an Accessibility Case Manager. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR webpage (<http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/>) or the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities. If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least

two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation. Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Course Schedule

Module 1: January 9 – January 15

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 1** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 2: January 16 – January 22

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 2** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Census Date: January 23

Module 3: January 23 – January 29

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 3** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 4: January 30 – February 5

Assigned Reading: **Chapters 4 and 5** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 5: February 6 – February 12

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 6** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 6: February 13 – February 19

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 7** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 7: February 20 – February 26

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 8** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 8: February 27 – March 5

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 9** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Spring Break: March 6 - March 12

Midterm Exam: Multiple Choice and True/False covering Modules 1 - 8

Module 9: March 13 – March 19

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 10** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 10: March 20 – March 26

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 11** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 11: March 27 – April 2

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 12** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 12: April 3 – April 9

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 13** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 13: April 10 – April 16

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 14 & 15** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 14: April 17 – April 23

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 16 & 17** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Module 15: April 24 – April 27

Assigned Reading: **Chapter 18** of *Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location*, 6th Edition

Final Exam April 25 - 27

Multiple Choice and True/False – Online – Covering Modules 9 - 15

Module lectures and course material will remain available for the duration of the course.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus including revising assignments, tentative schedule and evaluation as necessary.