Instructor Information:
Instructor(s): Dennis J. Mouland, P.L.S.
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Course Information:
Delivered and scheduled through the Outreach Credit Program

Prerequisites:
LS 3120 and 3130

Course Description:
Advanced topics in situations and problems in the Public Land Survey system, with discussion of major court cases involving everyday applications to surveyors. 1975 BLM casebook and other sources of survey reference.

Disability Statement:
If you have a physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall.

Objectives/Outcomes/Standards:
This course will: review major court cases, study significant cases from the 1975 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Casebook, explore advanced situations and problems in the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), and expose students to other sources of survey reference information so the student is aware of their application in the everyday practice of Land Surveying.

Text(s) and Readings:
The 2009 BLM Manual of Surveying Instructions and the BLM 1975 Casebook on the PLSS. Various other public domain documents and papers are also provided to students on advanced topics addressed by the courts of the BLM.

Course Requirements/Assignments:
This course will consist of reading assignments, video lectures, teleconferences, six homework assignments, a Cadastral Work Project (CWP), a mid-term examination, and a final proctored examination. Further, two required threaded discussions are posted during the course with current/recent court cases relevant to the topics (cases will vary year to year to remain new). Students will be encouraged to utilize the University’s Hopper Law Library to locate cases relevant to issues they are encountering during the CWP.
The CWP consists of:
1. Record survey and title documents to be analyzed
2. Scope of work from a “client”
3. Mixture of existent, obliterated, and lost field evidence and coordinates of evidence
4. Restoration of numerous complex lost corner situations
5. Subdivision of fractional, regular, elongated, and closing sections, plus a three-mile method section of Indian lands
6. Dealing with completion survey issues
7. Dealing with non-rectangular surveys intermingled with PLSS parcels
8. Creation of a plat meeting state law
9. Complete narrative of the project
10. Provide all calculations and final coordinate pairs
11. Complete areas of client's lands
12. Complete cap markings and required accessory ties
13. Complete corner descriptions

Grading Standards:
30% homework (six quizzes at 5% each), 20% Mid-Term Examination, 25% CWP, 25% Final Examination
A = 100% - 90%, B = 89% - 80%, C = 79% - 70%, D = 69% - 60%, F >60%

Attendance/Participation Policy:
University sponsored absences are cleared through the Office of Student Life. Students are expected to
attend all teleconferences for additional instruction and review. Electronic roll call is taken for each
teleconference. University sponsored absences are cleared through the Office of Student Life.

Academic Honesty:
UW Regulation 6-802. (Suggested language: The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of
integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and
the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community
and will not be tolerated [from the University Catalog]. Teachers and students should report suspected
violations of standards of academic honesty to the instructor, department head, or dean. Other University
regulations can be found at: http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/new-regulatory-structure/index.html)

Course Outline:
Week 1:
• Introductions
• Review of class policies
• Course Goals and Road Map
• Read Chapter 3 of 2009 Manual- General Review of the rectangular system
• Discuss changes from 1973 Manual and uses of 1975 Casebook
• 2 hours video lecture :
  o Review of PLSS
  o Intra to Case Law Citations System
  o Federal Appeals Districts

Week 2:
• Read Chapter 5 of 2009 Manual and Case A1 of the Casebook
• Read Cragin v. Powell, New York v. New Jersey (Ellis Island case)
• Download and review Cadastral Work Project (CWP) instructions (semester-long research and computational
  project-Estimated at 100 hours of student time to complete successfully)
• 2 hours video lecture
• Read Chapter 1 of 2009 Manual and Case C1 in Casebook
  • 2 hours video lecture
    o Review of case law sources for cadastral survey topics
    o Discuss records research in open and closed states in the public domain
    o Review critical terms used in PLSS
    o Review basic boundary law principles
  • Complete Exercise AP1 (1 hour)

Week 4:
• Read Chapter 4 of 2009 Manual and Case 89 in Casebook
  • 2 hours video lecture
    o Intro of three mile method sections
    o Discussion on corner names and marking
    o Use of accessories and other field evidence (topo calls and blazed lines)
    o Discuss fundamentals of completion and extension surveys
    o Discuss subdivision of completed sections with broken centerlines
    o Discuss junior/senior rights within the PLSS
  • Threaded Discussion One (current court cases TBD at course time)

Week 5:
• Read Chapter 6 of 2009 Manual and Cases 81, 82, and 810 in Casebook
  • 2 hours video lecture
    o Principles of Independent Resurveys
    o Subdivision of Fractional Sections
    o Fractional sections within completions
    o Indexing for point control methods
  • Complete Exercise AP-2 (1 hour)

Week 6:
• Read Chapter 7 of 2009 Manual and Cases 87 and 88 of Casebook
  • 2 hours video lecture
    o Subdivision of elongated sections
    o Resurvey of resurvey issues
    o Comparing the wrong chains
  • Complete Exercise AP-3 (1 hour)
  • Re-cap of CWP issues covered so far in course
  • Progress reports on CWP

Week 7:
• Read Case 86 in Casebook
  • 2 hours video lecture
    o More on resurvey of resurvey issues -IBLA cases
    o Intro to Controlling Intermediate corners and impact on surveys
      • Define
      • Subdivisional corners
      • When not to be re-established
• Complete Mid-term Exam (3 hours)

**Week 8:**
- Read Chapter 8 of 2009 Manual (Riparian and NRS) AND Case E1 of Casebook
- 2 hours video lecture
  - Basics of non-rectangular entities
  - Basics of riparian issues in the PLSS
  - Review of using parenthetical distances
- Complete Exercise AP-4 (2 hours)
- Review progress on CWP

**Week 9:**
- Read Case F1 in Casebook and read docs on HES surveys
- 2 hours video lecture
  - Details of NRS-
    - HES
    - DLC
    - Minerals
    - Foreign Grants
    - Indian Reservations
    - Military Reservations
    - Small Holding Claims
    - Private Land Claims
    - Townsite Surveys
    - Other Alaska-specific NRS’s
    - Tracts and other entities from independent resurveys
- Threaded Discussion Two (subject to be determined a class time)

**Week 10:**
- Read Cases E4 and E5 in Casebook and Chapter 10 of 2009 Manual
- 2 hours video lecture
  - More on Mineral Survey Retracement and Restoration
  - Title exceptions in mineral patents
  - Problems with extra-lateral rights
  - Using crossing closing corners
  - New Manual policies on CC’s and CCC’s
- Complete Exercise AP-5 (2 hours)

**Week 11:**
- Read Cases A1 thru A3 of Casebook and docs provided on Controlling Intermediate Corners and their impact on retracement issues
- 2 hours video lecture
  - Controlling Intermediate Corners and their impact on retracement issues
  - Overview of all corner restorations, including use of coordinates
  - Lost v. Obliterated v. Existent, revisited
  - Relevant IBLA cases
- Progress review on CWP

**Week 12:**
- Read Cases A4 and A5 in Casebook and additional documents on Mineral Survey Retracements
- No video lectures
- Complete Exercise AP-6 (2 hours)
- Progress Review and initial draft submittals of CWP computations and assumptions
Week 13:
- Read Cases C2, C3, C4, and C5 in Casebook and IBLA cases
- 1 hour video lecture
  - Principles of overlaps and hiatuses in the PLSS
  - Supreme Court Cases
  - IBLA cases
- Review of fundamental issues remaining on CWP

Week 14:
- No reading
- No videos
- Review upcoming Final Exam and CWP last-minute questions

Week 15:
- No reading
- No videos
- Complete Final Exam (3 hours)
- Complete Cadastral Work Project (CWP)
- Provide Course/instructor review forms procedures

*The instructor may make changes to the syllabus as the course proceeds. If necessary, these changes will be announced in class. Substantive changes made to the syllabus shall be communicated in writing to the students.*