Department of Civil Environmental and Geomatics Engineering
Florida Atlantic University
Course Syllabus

1. Course title/number, number of credit hours	
SUR 4403 Legal Aspects of Surveying	3 credit hours
2. Course prerequisites, corequisites, and where the course fits in the program of study	
Prerequisite: SUR 2101 and SUR 2101L Course is a required course, second semester senior year	
3. Course logistics	
Term: Spring 2014 This is a live on line course *Class location and time*: W 7:00 -10:00 PM Lecture Live On Line	
4. Instructor contact information	
Instructor's name *Office address* *Office Hours* *Contact telephone number* *Email address*	Donald J. Leone, Ph.D., PE Interim Director and Visiting Professor of Geomatics Engineering Boca Raton, Building 36, Room 203 Office Hours: M 7-8 PM On Line (651) 297-3104 dleone@fau.edu
5. TA contact information	
TA's name *Office address* *Office Hours* *Contact telephone number* *Email address*	N/A
6. Course description	
Legal principles of property boundary retracement, land descriptions, and rights-of-way. Ethical issues and legal limits of practice; surveyor as expert witness; surveyor-client relationship; responsibilities to the profession.	
7. Course objectives/student learning outcomes/program outcomes	
Course objectives	A. Understand the legal principles of property boundary retracement. B. Understand land descriptions, and rights-of-way C. Know the concepts concerned with riparian and littoral boundaries D. Comprehend the ethical issues and legal limits of practiceBe by a guided by a professional mentor in all aspects of the project..
Student learning outcomes & relationship to ABET a-k objectives	1. Know the US PLSS system. (a, c, e, f, h, i, k) 2. Understand land ownership and conveyance concepts. (c, f, g, i, k) 3. Understand boundary laws and the court systems.(c, f, g, j, k) 4. Know the creation of the GLO boundaries. (c, e, f, h, i, k) 5. Understand riparian and littoral boundaries (c, e, f, h, i, k) 6. Appreciate the ethics, moral responsibilities and legal role

	of the surveyor (f, h, i, k)Understand project planning. (b,c,k)	
Relationship to program outcomes	**Outcome 1**: An understanding of professional and ethical responsibility.	High
	Outcome 2: A working knowledge of fundamentals, engineering tools, and experimental methodologies.	High
	Outcome 3: An understanding of the social, economic, and political contexts in which engineers must function.	High
	Outcome 4: An ability to plan and execute an engineering design to meet an identified need.	High
	Outcome 5: An ability to function on multi-disciplinary teams.	High
	Outcome 6: An ability to communicate effectively.	High
	Outcome 7: Be proficient in the following geomatics engineering disciplines: plane, construction and engineering surveying, remote sensing, photogrammetry, geographic information systems, automated surveying systems, and legal and business practices.	High
	Outcome 8: Have an appreciation for the role of geomatics engineering in infrastructure and environmental planning.	High
	Outcome 9: Achieve success in finding professional employment and/or pursuing further academic studies.	High

8. Course evaluation method

1. Homework 25% 2. Exams 25% ea. 75%	*Note*: The minimum grade required to pass the course is C.

9. Course grading scale

There is not any fix criteria for the grading scale. The overall performance as related to course objectives and outcomes is evaluated and considered during grading.

10. Policy on makeup tests, late work, and incompletes

Makeup Assignments are given only if there is solid evidence of a medical or otherwise serious emergency that prevented the student of participating in the exam. Makeup exam should be administered and proctored by department personnel unless there are other pre-approved arrangements.
Late work is graded down
Incomplete grades are against the policy of the department. Unless there is solid evidence of medical or otherwise serious emergency situation incomplete grades will not be given.

11. Special course requirements

Computer, Internet Connection

12. Classroom etiquette policy

Proper communication during the live on line lectures using audio or chat, is to be conducted in a manner that will enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education.

13. Disability policy statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton campus, SU 133 (561) 297-3880 and follow all OSD procedures.

14. Honor code policy

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and place high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. See University Regulation 4.001 at www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

15. Required texts/reading

Text: Brown, C.T., W.G. Robillard and D.A. Wilson. *Brown's Boundary Control and Legal Principles*, 6th edition. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York.

16. Supplementary/recommended readings

None

17. Course topical outline, including dates for exams/quizzes, papers, completion of reading

Week	Topic
1	Introduction, to Creation of PLSS
2	History and Concept of Boundaries, How Boundaries Created, Ownership
	Transfers and Boundary, Law & Presumptions
3	Continue 4.12 ~ 4.16 (Law/Legal Research); Metes & Bounds descriptions, etc.
4	GLO Boundaries; Federal and State Non-sectionalized Land Surveys
5	Exam #1
6	Locating Easements and Reversions.
7	Riparian and Littoral Boundaries
8	Resurveying and Retracing Sectionalized Lands
9	Exam #2
10	Locating Sequential Conveyances
11	Locating Simultaneously Created Boundaries (12) and Locating Combination
	Descriptions and Conveyances
12	Role of the Surveyor (Ch 14) and The Ethics and Moral Responsibilities of
	Boundary Creation and of Retracements.
13	Review
14	Final Exam