

SUR 215 – The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Spring 2019

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: SUR 215.001
Class meeting time: Lecture: Online Only
Class location: Lecture: Online Only
Course Website: NISSET.PopuliWeb.com

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: C.A. “Tony” Nettelman, III
Office location: Online Only
Office hours: TBA
Telephone: 888-211-2198
E-mail: TN@LandSurveyCareer.com
Appointments: Office Hours or by appointment

Please be aware that e-mails are typically returned within 24 hours and I will be traveling throughout the semester (dates will be posted shortly before each trip). For immediate assistance, please call my cell phone.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Catalog Course Description

A detailed study of the U.S. Public Land Survey System including its creation, history and evolution, methods of creating townships, subdividing sectionalized lands, locating and restoring corners and conducting field surveys. Students are expected to be able to answer PLSS questions on the FS and PS exams as well as be able to step into a role with a private or government position in a PLSS state.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites

None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)

- Manual of Surveying Instructions (Bureau of Land Management, 2009) Available at https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Manual_Of_Surveying_Instructions_2009.pdf
- A History of the Rectangular Survey System, Volume 2 (White) available at https://books.google.com/books?id=1-BcVn3VhPQC&printsec=frontcover&dq=history+public+land+survey+system&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj3hp6ikIDkAhWqhOAKHVADC_8Q6AEwAHoECAQQA#v=onepage&q=history%20public%20land%20survey%20system&f=false

Supplies

- None

Technology

- A PC or Mac
- Adobe PDF viewer. (e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader).
- Web browser with Java Virtual Machine installed.
- Video player able to play MPEG-4 video (Quicktime, VLC, Windows Media Player).
- Speaker/Headphone, Microphone, and webcam.
- Consistent, weekly access to high-speed internet.
- A scanner or smartphone app for scanning assignments and converting them to pdf.

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. distinguish between dependent and independent resurveys
2. explain the different types of evidence left by the original surveyor and the hierarchy in relation to each other
3. list four types of corner evidence
4. perform single and double proportions according to BLM procedures
5. list three important court cases and explain their relevance in the context of PLSS resurveys

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Lectures will be held twice a week. All lectures will be presented as pre-recorded videos and posted online. Labs, homework, and projects will be given each week as assignments to reinforce the material taught in lectures and readings. Quizzes and exams will be given periodically as assessments.

This is not a self-paced course. Students should finish required activities based on the course schedule.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through three examinations, labs, homework, and quizzes.

ACTIVITY	% of FINAL GRADE
Exams (2 @ 200)	40
Assignments (10 @ 40)	40
Quizzes (4 @ 50)	20

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I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CHAPTER(S)</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>PROJECTS</u>
1	Introduction to the PLSS	Handout, pages 1 – 10		
2	History of the PLSS	White, Chapter 1	PLSS Web Exercise: Module 1 History	
3	Structure of the PLSS	BLM Manual, Chapter I	PLSS Web Exercise: Module 2 Structure	
4	Federal Boundary Law I	BLM Manual, Chapter V	Interior Board of Land Appeals web exercise	
5	Federal Boundary Law II	Clark on Surveying, Chapter 5	U. S. Forest Service & Chewacan Land and Cattle Company web exercise	
6	PLSS Records Sources	The Federal Land Status Record System handout	PLSS Records Field Trip	
7	Indian Records Sources		History/Culture Exercise	
8	Midterm Exam			
9	PLSS Survey Evidence I	BLM Manual, Chapter IX	Boundary Evidence Essay	
10	PLSS Survey Evidence II			
11	Subdivision of Sections	Clark on Surveying, Chapter 10	PLSS Web Exercise: Module 3 Subdivisions	
12	Writing PLSS Legal Descriptions	Clark on Surveying, Chapter 16	PLSS Web Exercise: Module 4 Writing the Description	
13	Existent Obliterated and Lost Corners	BLM Manual, Chapter VI		
14	Restoration of Lost Corners	BLM Manual, Chapter VII	Introduction to Restoration of Lost Corners web course	
15	Fractional Sections			
16	Final Exam (see Populi for dates and times)			

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.

G. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness: Attendance at all times is compulsory

Late Work: Late work will not be graded.

Participation: Participation in all activities is compulsory.