

**Construction Law and Ethics**

Syllabus: Construction Law and Ethics

**Course Title:** Construction Law and Ethics

**Course Credits:** 3 - 0

**Prerequisites / Co-requisites:** None

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to project legal structure, contract law principles, bidding legalities, ethics, labor law, environmental law, agency relationships, claims, dispute resolution, and risk management.

**Course Introduction:**

This course is an elective in the Certificate and a required course in the Master's Degree in Construction Management. The focus is on providing an introduction to legal principles affecting management of construction.

**Course Goals:**

The primary goal of this course is to have students gain an understanding of the legal principles that affect the various parties involved in construction projects.

**Objectives / Outcomes:**

1. Understand the role and responsibilities of construction professionals in managing projects and contracts.
2. Understand bidding legalities.
3. Understand dispute management approaches and risk management.
4. Understand the need for proper project control and documentation.
5. Provide an introduction to ethical requirements in engineering and construction.

**Required Materials:**

Yates, J. K. *Engineering and Construction Law and Contracts*. New jersey, Pearson (2011) ISBN 0 – 13 – 503352-4.

**Grading Policy:**

Same as other courses online

**Available Points:**

Week	Module	Quiz	Discussions	Assignments
1	1	30	90	100
2	2	30	90	100
3	3	30	90	100
4	4	30	90	100
5	5	30	90	100
6	6	30	90	100
7	7	30	90	100

## Technology Requirements:

### Computer Requirements:

First, let's make sure your computer has the necessary plug-ins you will need to access all the content in this course. You can click [here](#) to access UTEP's test page that will inform you if the computer you are using has the latest software available.

### Software Requirements:

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course. In some cases your computer may already have some of these programs installed.

- Adobe Acrobat Reader: You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the center of the screen which says "Get Adobe Reader". Follow instructions to install the reader.
- Adobe Flash Player: You can get the player by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on "Get Adobe Flash Player". Follow instructions to install the player.
- Apple QuickTime Player: You can get this player by going to <http://www.apple.com>. Once there, click on the "Downloads" tab on the top of the page and then click on QuickTime "Download" and follow instructions.
- Microsoft Office: I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. As students, you can generally buy this whole package for about \$25, far less than the store price of approximately \$400.
- Microsoft Silverlight: You can download/update this add-on by going to <http://www.microsoft.com/silverlight/>. This will allow you to view embedded PowerPoint Presentations and PDF files embedded in the course lessons.

## Important Reminders:

### Course Schedule Changes:

As course instructor, I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus or change assignments as needed. I will be sure to give you plenty of notice prior to any changes

### Class Participation:

I strongly recommend that you check the course at least three times a week at minimum to keep up. Email messages are sent to your UTEP email address, so you will want to check your UTEP email several times a week.

There will be no incompletes offered in this course. Past experience has shown that if you cannot complete the course during the time allotted, you probably never will.

### Time Management:

The rule of thumb for time planning for a course is approximately three (3) hours for every credit hour taken. This is a standard figure recommended across the board by American universities. For a 3 credit course, course you should expect to spend:

**3 hours of class time + 9 hours of study and prep time = 12 hours per week**

### Being Successful in an Online Class:

Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate as fully as they can so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure your participation and engagement in the learning process:

- Ask Questions: If you don't know the answer, someone else will. The discussion board is the area for asking questions related to content OR any problems (related to the class) you are having. Make sure that you have

clearly indicated the subject of your message.

- **Reach out to others:** Offer a fact, article, link, or other item that can help others learn something you can share.
- **Be appropriate:** The online classroom is not the place for insulting or insensitive comments, attacks, or venting. Inappropriate behavior can be subject to disciplinary action, as well.
- **Be diplomatic:** When sending messages on emotionally charged topics, I recommend that you write the message and then walk away for at least an hour before re-reading the message and then sending it. Re-reading emotionally charged messages ensures that they are constructive instead of destructive. Think of the person at the other end.
- **Stay focused:** Stay on topic to increase the efficiency of your learning.

### **Effective Electronic Communications:**

It is important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important that we all keep this in mind as we communicate. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure us when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance.

- For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting.

The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. (Translation: you may certainly disagree with others, but you must do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.)

- More information on Netiquette, the etiquette of Internet communication, can be found at [www.albion.com/netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette) .

### **Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

### **Notice of Safe Assign:**

This course may utilize third party software that has the ability to automatically detect plagiarism on documents submitted for grading.

### **Copyright Notice:**

Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained

or disseminated.

**Disabled Student Statement:**

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call (915) 747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. You also can visit the DSSO website at [www.utep.edu/dsso](http://www.utep.edu/dsso) or the DSSO office in Room 108 East Union Building. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

**Technical Assistance:**

The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at:  
<http://at.utep.edu/techsupport/>.