COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor
- Doris A. Kemp
- TEC 233-C (Bobby Chain Technology Building) on the Hattiesburg campus
- Office Phone: 601-266-5673
- Fax: 601-266-5717
- Email: doris.kemp@usm.edu

Office Hours
Please see my faculty website for times I will be in the office (http://icee.usm.edu/dkemp/pub-doc/contact/contact_schedule.htm) or schedule a time to speak to me via email. Students may also schedule a meeting using Blackboard IM.

Credit Hours
1 credit hour.

Course Description
Seminar: current issues in construction.

Course Overview
This seminar is aimed at developing critical thinking and leadership skills necessary in construction management within the context of current issues.

Course Objectives
After completing this course the student should be able to:
Provide average to excellent discussion capabilities with respect to the current issues in construction.

**Required Text**
No text required

**Class Procedures and Requirements**
Completion of the assignments with a passing grade (C or better) is mandatory to successfully complete the course. All papers must be submitted in order to pass the course.

**Evaluation Criteria**
Research paper assignments will account for 100% of the grade. Grading of each submittal will follow the assessment rubric found in Figure #1.

**Figure #1: Research Paper Grading Rubric**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Compliance with Guidelines   | 2 Points
Did not use APA writing style; paper does not meet required length | 3 Points
Used APA writing style incorrectly in several sections of paper; paper meets required length | 4 Points
Used APA writing style correctly on most aspects of the paper; paper meets required length | 5 Points
Used APA writing style correctly; paper meets required length |
| Voice/Tone                   | 9 Points
Limited awareness of audience and purpose         | 11 Points
An attempt to establish and maintain purpose and communicate with the audience | 13 Points
Focused on purpose; evidence of voice and suitable tone | 15 Points
Establishes and maintains clear focus; Evidence of distinctive voice and appropriate tone |
| Depth of Idea - “visual support” includes consideration of sketches, graphs, illustrations, tables, and similar items. | 20 Points
Minimal idea development, limited or unrelated details, and no visual support | 25 Points
Unelaborated idea development; unelaborated or repetitious details, and limited visual support | 30 Points
Depth of idea supported by elaborated, relevant details and visual support | 35 Points
Depth and complexity of ideas supported |
| Organization                 | 7 Points
Random or weak organization, unclear purpose, unclear relationship and transition between sections, ramble or may seem like a list of facts. Lacks conclusion. | 8 Points
Lapses in focus and coherence. | 9 Points
Logical organization. | 10 Points
Paper is well organized with a clear beginning, middle, and end. There is a strong organizing theme with clear main ideas and transitions. Evidence of analysis, reflection, and insight. |
| Grammar/Spelling             | 7 Points
Errors in grammar and format (i.e., spelling, capitalization, punctuation, headings) | 8 Points
Some errors in grammar and format that do not interfere with communication. | 9 Points
Few errors in grammar, spelling or format relative to length and complexity. | 10 Points
Control of surface features. |
| Sentence Structure           | 2 Points
Incorrect or lack of topic and transition sentences. | 3 Points
Simplistic and awkward sentence structure. | 4 Points
Controlled and varied sentence structure. | 5 Points
Variety of sentence structure, complexity, and length. |
| Language                     | 2 Points
Incorrect and ineffective wording and use of terminology. | 3 Points
Simplistic and imprecise language and terminology for topic of paper. | 4 Points
Acceptable, effective language and terminology for topic of paper. | 5 Points
Precise, appropriate language and terminology for topic of paper. |
| References
"variation" means books, journals, proceedings, papers, dissertations, websites, interviews... | 9 Points
Minimum references and no in-text citations included. | 11 Points
Some variation in references and a few in-text citations. | 13 Points
Use and variation of references indicates ample research and in-text citations included. | 15 Points
Use and variation of references indicates substantial search and in-text citations included. |
Grading Scale

Each assignment is worth 100 points; totals points for the course is 400. The grading scale conversion is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Point Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **90 to 100** A (360-400 pts)– Excellent Work: Goes Beyond the requirements of the subject
  Criteria: Advance understanding of the subject, thoughtful analysis of the problem, clear communication of ideas, depth of understanding in connecting theory to practice, provocative, scholarly treatment of the subject, and creative/imaginative connections or examples.

- **80 to 89** B (320-359 pts)– Good Work: Fully achieves the requirements of the subject
  Criteria: Knowledge and depth of understanding of the subject, clear communication of ideas, examines the implications of theory to practice, analysis of the problem, and implementation of solutions.

- **70 to 79** C (280-319 pts)– Average Work: Substantially completes the requirements of the subject
  Criteria: Knowledge of the subject, adequately communicates ideas but lacks insight, implications drawn are limited in scope and not connected, not attempt to go beyond the minimum requirements of the subject.

- **60 to 69** D (240-279 pts)– Inferior Work: Inadequate attempt in completing the requirements
  Criteria: Limited knowledge of the subject, inadequate communication of ideas, completes less than minimum requirements of the subject.

- **0 to 59** F (0-239 pts)– Failure: Noncompliance with basic requirements of the class
  Criteria: Blatant disregard for requirements.

Deliverables, Late Assignments or Projects

- All assignments are mandatory for all students.
- All assignments shall be submitted by the designated period as specified. No late assignments will be accepted without a justified and documented excuse (such as severe illness and doctor’s note).
- The failure to submit any one of the deliverables will result in a Failing grade (“F”) for the course, even if the accumulated grade of the other grading components results in a passing grade.
Academic Honesty

- “When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the student an F on the work involved or in the course. If further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate, the student should be reported to the Dean of Students. In addition to being a violation of academic honesty, cheating violates the Code of Student Conduct and may be grounds for probation, suspension, and/or expulsion.” Source: USM Undergraduate Bulletin
- Students on disciplinary suspension may not enroll in any courses offered by The University of Southern Mississippi.

ADA Syllabus Statement

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address:
The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232
Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.