COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor

- Sandeep Langar, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C
- 118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406
- Email: Sandeep.Langar@usm.edu
- Phone: 601.266.6758

Office Hours

- Tuesday and Thursday - 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- You can also schedule an appointment, in case you are unavailable to converse with the instructor at these times.

Drop Date

August 31st is the last day to drop full-semester classes and receive 100% financial credit. (The information can be accessed at https://www.usm.edu/registrar/fall-2016-full-term-academic-calendar)

Prerequisite

Senior Standing, ENG101, ENG102

Credit Hours

3 hours

Course Description

The course analyzes construction law, legal problems, the bidding process, contract performance, and the contract.

Course Outcome(s)

The main goal of the course is to expose students to legal thinking in the context of construction through readings, case studies, discussions, and various exercises, emphasizing the duties, rights, best practices, and liabilities of stakeholders in construction projects.

Course Overview

1. This course is designed for you to attain the skills of contract administration and knowledge regarding construction contracts and legalities, which are critical to your future construction career. The principles of construction law are the course emphasis, including how these principles affect the construction manager.
I am not a lawyer, and I will not try to make you one, but we will learn how and when to involve a lawyer in your future industrial/contractual issues. The course is designated as ‘Writing Intensive’ according to the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Weekly assigned readings and periodic papers are required. Students are expected to display competencies in written communication and basic construction law principles.

2. As stated, this course is reading intensive. You not only need to read but also comprehend the material for application in the writing assignment. Additionally, law topics use a glossary of terms, which have different meanings in the legal context from those, which we are familiar.

3. The course lecture will be delivered to both online and face-to-face sections simultaneously.

4. The writing assignment contains a 5,000-word minimum final submission that shall adhere to the established protocols.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, the students shall be able to:

1. Recognize and differentiate between the necessary implications of primary construction contract clauses.
2. Identify construction management/contract administration best practices based upon construction law.
3. Critically evaluate construction disputes based upon case facts and contract content.
4. Demonstrate the ability to research, develop, and focus on legal topics for speaking and writing assignments while presenting ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form.
5. Demonstrate the ability to use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage.
6. Consideration of ethical issues involved in a construction project delivery.

Instructional Strategies
The course aims at establishing critical thinking and intellectual engagement among the participants. To achieve these results, In-class and Blackboard discussions, and class slides will be the primary methods used.

Course Communication
Following protocols are established for communication with the professor and any email not complying with the following protocols shall not be responded to:

1) All emails shall be sent from a USM email address.
2) All emails should have a subject that should start with “BCT_478_F2F_Subject.”
3) Please provide the professor with 72 hours of response time, for all emails.
4) If you do not receive any reply of the professor after the first 72 hours, the student will send a reminder to the instructor.

Professor realizes that things happen in real life and is more than willing to work with the students. The student should report any event that affects their performance to the professor, via an email.

The information about the available academic resources can be accessed at http://artsandlettersnow.usm.edu/student-resources/academic-resources.html
Required Textbook(s) and Readings
- Additional supplementary readings shall be posted on blackboard.

Technology Requirements
The primary requirements of this course are:
1. Navigate course content in Blackboard
2. Create and Save a Word/Excel/PowerPoint document
3. Compose an email, following the established protocols
4. Take a digital photograph and upload to a computer
5. Save a file to computer or USB device
6. Convert Word/Excel/PowerPoint/Scanned documents into “pdf” file
7. The lecture can be reviewed in Internet Explorer or Firefox. You also can try Google Chrome. All these browsers are free to download.
8. Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Microsoft Office Word, Microsoft Office PowerPoint, and Microsoft Office Excel) is expected.

Class Procedures and Requirements
1. The course will be taught through a series of in-class lectures. The supplementary reading material shall be posted on the Blackboard to help students obtain an enhanced understanding of the topics taught. It is highly recommended that students review additional materials and class slides.
2. Writing assignment shall be submitted in a professional manner and follow established guidelines. No extension shall be granted. You are going to be a future construction professional and need to cultivate the attitude of a responsible bidder that follows the bid-box standard. It is highly recommended that student keeps a proof of the submission.
3. No grade changes are allowed in the course unless there is an error on the part of the professor.
4. Students will be tested on their understanding of the course using four tests. It is the responsibility of the students to review the material. Details about the material covered on each test can be found on the Blackboard.
5. It is the responsibility of the students to review regularly course materials (slides, tests, discussions, and others) uploaded on the Blackboard.
6. Class participation via Blackboard discussions are highly recommended, and the professor expects the students to be actively involved. 16% of the total grade is allocated towards class participation.
7. There is significant content (reading and video) in this course so you should be very careful in your plans for allocating time for instruction, reading, comprehension, and assignments. The writing assignment is not cut-paste, they require students first to comprehend the material, and then synthesize it for application in the writing assignments.
8. A new portion of the course will be opened each week.
9. Students are expected to attend lectures regularly. It is the responsibility of the student to regularly review any videos uploaded and actively participate in class discussions (including the ones activated on the Blackboard). Class participation via Blackboard and in-class discussions for this course is highly recommended and the professor expects the students to participate actively. 16% of the total grade is
allocated towards class participation. Active participation via Blackboard discussion shall count towards the class participation grade, apart from class attendance.

10. Being present in the classes is the responsibility of the student. If for any reason the student cannot be present in the class, it is their responsibility to notify the professor. In such a scenario, the professor should be notified at least three hours prior to the class. Any student missing three lectures consecutively or more than five classes throughout the semester will automatically receive a grade drop.

### Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Percentage of Overall Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation (Actively participate in Blackboard discussions + attendance)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test # 1</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test # 2</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test # 3</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test # 4</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment (Minimum 5,000 word)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### Grading Scale

- **A**: 90-100
- **B**: 80-89
- **C**: 70-79
- **D**: 60-69
- **F**: Less than 60

### Late Submission

No late attempts for written assignment/tests/discussion(s) will be acceptable, without a justified and documented reason. It is the responsibility of the student to complete written assignment, tests, and discussions on-time and failure to do so can severely affect grades.

### Course Workload Statement

Students are expected to invest considerable time outside of class in learning the material for this course. The expectation of the University of Southern Mississippi is that each week students should spend approximately 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class working on reading, assignments, studying, and other work for the course. Since most students work and have family or other obligations, time management is critical for student success. All students should assess their personal circumstances and talk with their advisors about the appropriate number of credit hours to take each term, keeping in mind that 30 credit hours each year are needed to graduate in four years. Resources for academic support can be found at [www.usm.edu/success](http://www.usm.edu/success).
Academic Integrity
All students at the University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):
1. Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
2. Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
3. Falsification of documents
4. Disclosure of test or test solutions to other student(s)
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.”

For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University. Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy (https://www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-acaf-pro-012%20). Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy
If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans 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 Dr. #8586, Hattiesburg, MS 3940-0001

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 ODA at oda@usm.edu.
Mental Well-Being Statement
Southern Miss recognizes that students sometimes experience challenges that make learning difficult. If you find that life stressors such as anxiety, depression, relationship problems, difficulty concentrating, alcohol/drug problems or other stressful experiences are interfering with your academic or personal success, consider contacting Student Counseling Services on campus at 601.266.4829. More information is also available at www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services. All students are eligible for free, confidential individual or group counseling services.

In the event of an emergency, please call 911 or contact the counselor on call at 601.606.HELP (4357).

USM Resources: Writing Center
The Writing Center is a free tutorial service available to any USM student who wants assistance with a writing project. The Center offers one-to-one writing instruction that is designed to help students become a more effective writer. The Center offers tutorial service on a walk-in basis or by appointment (on the hour for an hour). In each session, a tutor talks with students about their writing project, asking them questions that will help students clarify their thoughts, specify their purpose, and decide how to proceed. Tutors do not write papers for students, but they will help students find ways to develop their ideas more fully and express them more effectively.

For further information, please visit: https://www.usm.edu/writing-center/what-writing-center

Joseph A. Cook Library 112
118 College Drive #5059
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Phone: 601.266.4821

Note:
The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus. The class will be notified when such a scenario occurs.
### Test Schedule and Material Covered for Tests: Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination type</th>
<th>Test activation date</th>
<th>Test deactivation date</th>
<th>Test Weightage *</th>
<th>Book chapters covered</th>
<th>Book Chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Test 1           | 09/25/2016           | 12/4/2016 (at 5:00 PM) | 11%              | Chapter 1 - 3         | 1. Legal context of construction  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 2. Alternative contracting methods  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 3. Preparing to work in a new state  |
| Test 2           | 10/10/2016           | 12/4/2016 (at 5:00 PM) | 11%              | Chapter 4, 5, 7 & 8   | 1. Competing for the contact  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 2. Interpreting the contract  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 3. Authority and responsibility of the design official  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 4. Subcontract administration and dispute avoidance  |
| Test 3           | 10/25/2016           | 12/4/2016 (at 5:00 PM) | 11%              | Chapter 9-12          | 1. Contract changes  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 2. Differing site conditions  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 3. Schedules, delays, and acceleration  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 4. Inspection, acceptance, warranties, and commissioning  |
| Test 4           | 11/05/2016           | 12/4/2016 (at 5:00 PM) | 11%              | Chapter 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21 | 1. Management techniques to limit risk and avoid dispute  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 2. Payment bonds  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 3. Performance bond and termination  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 4. Proving costs and damages  
|                  |                      |                        |                  |                       | 5. Resolution of construction disputes  |

* The percentages are represented with respect to the total grade

**Testing Method:**
All tests and final exam shall be:
- Conducted Online via Blackboard
- Closed book
- Not Proctored

Also, detailed information about each test can be found on the Blackboard under each test.

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