

# CMGT 4335 – CONSTRUCTION LAW AND ETHICS

## Course Times & Classroom:

- Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM
- RBN 3040

**Professor:** Dr. Chi Tian

**Email:** [ctian@uttyler.edu](mailto:ctian@uttyler.edu) (Preferred communication method)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday, 12:20 PM to 1:50 PM or by appointment

**Office:** RBS 1006

**Course Dates:** Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

## Email Policy

- Please use the following format for your email subject line: [Course Number + HW#/Exam#/Lecture#].
- Practice writing professional emails for this class, as it is an essential skill in the construction industry.
- I will respond as soon as possible, but please allow up to 2 business days for a reply.

## Attendance Policy

- Attending lectures regularly is the critical step for you to succeed in this class.
- Students who missed the lectures are responsible for getting the lecture notes/materials from classmates.

## Hybrid Policy

- Students from HEC may attend this course remotely via Zoom. You must ensure you are in a safe and appropriate environment, such as a classroom, to attend the lecture. Participating in lectures while engaging in other activities, such as driving, is strictly prohibited.
- Students from the Tyler campus are required to attend this class in person.
- With advancements in technology, this class will also explore the feasibility of hybrid education. Some lectures will be recorded and made available on Canvas as videos, with prior notice.

## AI Policy:

- You can only use AI for grammar checking for this course assignment.
- You need to clearly acknowledge the use of AI in your homework.

## Course Overview

Welcome to this course. This course is a little different than most you have taken so far. The overall educational model for a professional project leader has the shape of a T as shown below. The bottom vertical leg of the T is your technical and engineering competence, knowledge, and practice that you have gained by your classroom and practice work in your “hard engineering” skills courses. The top of the T shaped model in the horizontal box is made up of “soft skills” critically needed to be a professional engineering/technology leader. The topics here are leadership, business acumen, people management, contracts and contract law, professional practice skills, law, regulations, character, ethics, lifelong learning, continued skills development, professionalism. This course is exclusively at the top of the T.

All of these deal with your professional identity, ethics, morals, leadership, and business and management skills.

This course will focus on the top of the T – the “soft” skills and critical lessons in becoming a practicing professional leader.



## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and define specialized knowledge, practice, competence, and professional identify and community training required to be a professional project leader.
2. Understand the concepts in the “leadership “of engineering, and various “build it” processes.  
NOTE: - integrated design never stops till it is commissioned
3. Define and understand what a profession is and what a professional is.
4. Understand what a leader is and what leadership does.
5. Understand what a manager is and what management does.
6. Understand what a team player/follower is and how they best support a team.
7. Know what an “engineer” is and what engineering does.
8. Understand what is required in practice and character of an engineer and a leader
9. Look at the TRUST between a professional and society and why this is so critical to sustain.
10. Look at contracts, Kr Law, obligations under contractual arrangements.
11. Look at the ethics expected of you as an engineering/technology leader and professional.
12. Look at and understand Public Policy and the engineering/technology professional.

## Textbooks and Readings

### Required Textbooks

- Common Sense Construction Law 5th Ed by Smith and Currey from Wiley ISBN 978-1-118-85810-3
- Ethics for Engineers by Martin Peterson from Oxford Press ISBN 9780190609207

Additional readings will be posted in CANVAS.

## Graded Course Requirements Information

### Assignments and in-class activities

- The homework and in-class activities cover all contents from lectures, textbooks, readings and class discussion.
- The in-class activities are usually due at the end of the lecture. Attending the lecture regularly is highly recommended to get access to all the quizzes.
- **Late submission:** Late submission **might** be accepted if (1) you contact me **at least 48 hours** in advance of the assignment and quiz deadline (2) **with official proof**. Example of acceptable official proof: medical record, academic conference invitation etc.

### Exams

- This course has two exams.
- Exams cover lectures, reading and class discussion.
- Exam make-up: You need to contact me **at least 48 hours** in advance of the exam **with official proof**. Example of acceptable official proof: medical record, academic conference invitation etc. No submission is allowed 48 hours after the deadline.

### Grading Policies

- Late submissions: It is a basic principle of professionalism that “Professionals are not late”. Deductions to your assignments grade for late submission will be given as follows:
  - 0-24 hours late a deduction of **25%** of the earned grade
  - 24-48 hours late a deduction of **50%** of the earned grade
  - More than 48 hours late **No credit**.
- Re-grade requests: You must come to my office hours if you have questions about your grades within **15 days** after they are posted. You should check your posted grades on Canvas regularly to track your progress.

## Grading Structure

| Content  | Percentage % |
|--|--------------|
| Assignments and in-class activities  | 10%          |
| Team projects<br>A. Public policy (25%)<br>B. Ethics case study presentation (25%) | 50%          |
| Exam 1   | 20%          |
| Exam 2   | 20%          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>100%</b>  |

## Grading Scale

- **A** - (90% or higher)
- **B** - (80 – 89.99%)
- **C** - (70 – 79.99%)
- **D** - (60 – 69.99%)
- **F** - (Below 60%)

**A grade of 69 (D) or below will be a failure to complete the course for graduation in the department.**

## Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

**Note:** This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

| <b>4335 Course Schedule (Subject to change as needed throughout the semester)</b> |        |  |                                     |                   |
|---|--------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Date  | Lesson | Topic for Class  | Reading                             | Assignment        |
| 1/14  | 1      | Syllabus and professional CM education                   |                                     | CANVAS Material   |
| 1/16  | 2      | Public Policy (PP)                                       | Chapter 1                           | CANVAS Material   |
| 1/21  | 3      | Public Policy  | Chapter 2                           | CANVAS Material   |
| 1/23  | 4      | Public Policy  | Chapter 3                           | CANVAS Material   |
| 1/28  | 5      | Public Policy and Engineering                            |                                     |                   |
| 1/30  | 6      | PP project preparation                                   |                                     | In class activity |
| 2/4   | 7      | PP project presentation 1                                |                                     | Team presentation |
| 2/6   | 8      | CITI   |                                     |                   |
| 2/11  | 9      | PP project presentation 2                                |                                     | Team presentation |
| 2/13  | 10     | What is a profession? / What is a professional?          | Colby Sullivan, Fledderman          |                   |
| 2/18  | 11     | Professional Duty of Care                                | Paper and Bolam "Test"              | CANVAS Material   |
| 2/20  | 12     | Leadership, Management and Followship                    | Northrup Chp 1, 12                  | CANVAS Material   |
| 2/25  | 13     | Engineering Ethics 1&2                                   | Ethics for Engineers Chp 1 &2       |                   |
| 2/27  |        | Engineering Ethics 3&4                                   | Ethics for Engineers Chp 7&8, 10,12 |                   |
| 3/4   | 14     | <b>EXAM #1</b>   |                                     |                   |
| 3/6   | 15     | Ethics project preparation                               |                                     | In class activity |
| 3/11  | 16     | Ethics project presentation                              |                                     | Team presentation |
| 3/13  | 17     | Ethics project presentation                              |                                     | Team presentation |
| <b>Spring Break</b>   |        |  |                                     |                   |
| 3/25  | 18     | Ethics project presentation                              |                                     | Team presentation |
| 3/27  | 19     | KR Law & Construction                                    | Smith/Currie Chp 1                  |                   |
| 4/1   | 20     | KR Interpretation  | Smith/Currie Chp 2                  |                   |
| 4/3   | 21     | KR Methods   | Smith/Currie Chp 3                  |                   |
| 4/8   | 22     | P3 projects  | Smith/Currie Chp 4                  |                   |
| 4/10  | 23     | Auth and Respon. Of Design Professional                  | Smith/Currie Chp 9                  |                   |
| 4/15  | 24     | Kr changes   | Smith/Currie Chp 11                 |                   |
| 4/17  | 25     | Kr inspections, acceptance, warranties and commissioning | Smith/Currie Chp 14                 |                   |
| 4/22  | 26     | <b>EXAM #2</b>   |                                     |                   |
| 4/24  |        | Class Wrap-up  |                                     |                   |

## Student Resources:

### Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Student Business Services](#) (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

## University Policies and Information

### Withdrawing from Class

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email [enroll@uttyler.edu](mailto:enroll@uttyler.edu) to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career\*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

\* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

### Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. *Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).*

### **Final Exam Policy**

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when all of the following conditions are met*: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

### **Grade Appeal Policy**

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and

supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

### **Disability/Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu), or call 903.566.7079."

### **Military Affiliated Students**

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at [MVSC@uttyler.edu](mailto:MVSC@uttyler.edu) or via phone at 903.565.5972.

### **Students on an F-1 Visa**

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.



## **Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct**

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

## **FERPA**

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

## **Absence for Official University Events or Activities**

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

## **Absence for Religious Holidays**

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

## **Absence for Pregnant Students**

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at [parents@uttyler.edu](mailto:parents@uttyler.edu) and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

## **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.