

BC 3610 Syllabus Construction Law,

Section __, 3 Credits Fall 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to construction contracts, ethics, design and construction law. Students will learn the legal requirements for forming, interpreting, and enforcing contracts, including bidding, early start agreements, public and private prime contracts, design contracts, subcontracts, bonds, and insurance. Students will also learn about making and defending against construction claims, including differing site condition, delay and acceleration, defect, changes, and termination claims. Knowledge of construction law and ethics is critical to everyone in the construction industry.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand contract provisions commonly included in construction contracts (SLO 14)
- Analyze legal issues that commonly arise during the construction process (SLO 14)
- Develop effective strategies for making and defending against common construction claims (SLO 14)
- Recognize, analyze and deal with ethical dilemmas (SLO 6)

Required Course Materials

Construction Law (Second Ed.) C. Patterson, R. Altman, S. Hess, & A. Overcash editors (ABA -Forum on Construction Law) ISBN 9781641054645 (ISBN 9781641054652 (e-book))

Additional readings include assigned legal cases and optional legal cases, contracts, articles, and other miscellaneous materials made available through the class portal.

Grading Policy:

Grading and Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on an aggregate point total for exams, homework, and classroom participations.

Course grading is as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
90% and above	80%-89.9%	70%-79.9%	60%-69.9%	<59.9%

Points: The following table summarizes the points for this course.

	Points	Percent
Classroom Participation	10.0	10
Homework (each assignment is 2%)	20.0	20
Ethics Presentation	10.0	10
Midterm Examination	25.0	25
Final Examination	35.0	35
TOTAL	100.0	100%

Description of Graded Components

- Classroom participation grades will be based upon attending class in person, asking focused questions, and actively participating in classroom discussions.
- Homework grades will be based upon the timely and thoughtful submission of assignment before class. Homework is viewed as a learning experience. Students are encouraged to think outside the box.
- Students will prepare a short PowerPoint presentation and lead the class in discussion of assigned ethical dilemmas intended to replicate real life ethical problems that persons in the construction industry sometimes face.
- Each examination for this course will be open book and open note and consist of two essay questions involving the application of facts given in the examination to the legal concepts discussed in the reading assignments, required cases, and class. Portions of the fact patterns on the examination may be similar to the cases discussed in class. Subtle differences in facts may lead to different results. Referencing the case alone does not constitute analysis. Analysis requires that you compare and contrast the facts and circumstances in the examination question with the cases we have studied. This is not intended to trick students; rather it is to test whether the student truly understands the applicable legal concepts set out in the cases well enough to apply them to different situations. Extra credit points will be available on each exam.

Course Policies

Policies and Expectations: All students must comply with the course policies and procedures.

This course covers a large amount of material necessary and important to the construction process. We will take a practical approach to legal issues. Success in this class is measured by the results you achieve after the final exam, not your final grade.

Method of Instruction: The course will include a combination of lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, and student presentations. This course is not a training course. You will not be trained to master construction law. You will be taught to recognize and analyze legal problems to develop and carry out effective business strategies for dealing with legal problems that arise during the construction process.

Readings, Preparation and Participation: You should complete all assigned homework and reading before class. You should come to class prepared to actively participate in class lectures

and discussions.

The reading assignments, homework problems, assigned cases, lectures, and classroom participation are complementary, yet independent, integral elements of the course. The lectures will not cover everything you read; nor will the reading materials cover everything discussed during lectures. There may be large amounts of material discussed in the reading and not in the lecture, and visa versa. You are expected to know all material covered in either the reading assignments or the lecture.

Attendance and/or Participation

Class Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all class lectures and exams, unless you are officially excused by the instructor. Students must notify the instructor by email before class of all anticipated absences. Excused absences include student participation in university academic, athletic, and career events requiring travel or participation during class time, unavoidable work, religious, childcare, or family matters, accident, injury, sickness and health issues. Club and other social events are not excusable absences, unless expressly authorized by the university or the instructor in advance. Arriving late or leaving early are absences, and subject to the same excused/unexcused requirements set forth above. There are no “free cuts” permitted. Your class participation grade will be reduced by 10% for each unexcused absence. This policy is in your best interest, since attendance is essential for understanding some of the complex material covered in this course.

If you attend fewer than 75% of the scheduled class meetings, i.e. miss more than 4 out of 16 scheduled classes, you will not receive credit for the course.

In the case of unavoidable absences, you are responsible for making up the work done in class. It is not the instructor’s responsibility to provide the student with that information outside of class. It is your responsibility to obtain any missed information or handouts given in class from a classmate. You should exchange phone numbers or e-mail addresses with other students in the class to better facilitate note sharing, etc. No companions, friends, family, or pets are permitted in class.

Virtual Attendance: You are required to attend all classes in person. Virtual attendance is available only if directed by the Institute under its Modified Operations Policies (discussed below), or with the instructor’s prior approval because you are ill or cannot physically attend class due to a work, university, college, school, family, or personal commitment. Remote access is not available as a convenience to you. Abuse of the availability of remote access will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Instructor’s Absence or Tardiness: If the instructor is late in arriving to class without providing you with written instruction either dismissing the class or asking you to wait, you must wait a full 20 minutes after the scheduled time for the start of class before you leave to avoid being counted absent.

Class Discussions: Your active participation in class discussions is mandatory. Various viewpoints and divergent opinions are encouraged and welcome. Questioning the ideas of others, including the instructor and other students, are encouraged and welcome. Be civil, mature, and courteous. The instructor will manage classroom discussions, so that ideas and

arguments can proceed in an orderly fashion within the time allowed in his or her lecture plan. Disrespect, interrupting, talking over, raising voices, rude behaviour, and shaming of others will not be tolerated. If your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the orderly flow of information or the atmosphere of mutual respect, you will not be permitted to participate further.

Methods of Communicating: You can submit all written work to the instructor through the class portal. You can also ask questions and ask for clarification by e-mail, in class, or by visiting the instructor by appointment at his or her office. Students are not permitted to discuss grades with the instructor via e-mail, only in-person.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards.

Academic Misconduct/Honor Code: Students in this course are responsible for behaving in accordance with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. The Institute Student Honor Code is printed in the Georgia Tech General Catalog, as well as available on the Web at: www.honor.gatech.edu.

Plagiarism: Students are expected to do their own work in this course. To use another writer's or speaker's ideas without giving proper credit by means of standard documentation is plagiarism. All course papers, notes, homework, and projects submitted to the instructor are subject to textual similarity review for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The instructor will follow the Institute's policy for plagiarism.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

[Core IMPACTS](#) is the University System of Georgia's General Education curriculum. If you are teaching a course that counts towards Core IMPACTS, you should include a syllabus statement about the Core area and associated [career competencies](#). [This resource](#)

developed by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Online Education at Georgia State University includes template syllabus statements for each of the Core IMPACTS areas that you may adapt for your course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Supplemental Policies:

The following supplemental policies will supersede the previous policies listed above, at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignment

Standards: All work is due on the date assigned uploaded to the class portal. Specific criteria for grading each assignment will be discussed in class, but the following general criteria will be used for grading:

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Grading

Appeals: All appeals to change a grade for homework, presentations, and exams must be made in writing no later than one week after you receive the disputed grade. The instructor will not discuss or argue

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Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

None. Note that the current catalog identifies BC 3600 Construction Project Management as prerequisite in error.

Extra Credit Opportunities

No extra credit is available for this course, except as provided in examinations.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

Collaboration: Collaboration with other students on assignments is encouraged. Students may discuss an assignment and their answers.

Copying: Copying another student's work or the use of artificial intelligence that you present as your own work is strictly prohibited.

Group Assignments: Group assignments, if any, will be graded for the entire group.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Assignment Deadlines: All assignments are due **at the start of class** on the date indicated. All students are expected to complete all assignments. The instructor reserves the right to modify assignments. You will not receive credit for late assignments. The instructor will accept and correct late assignments to provide you with feedback that will be beneficial to the learning process. Please do not turn in late assignments during dead week.

Exams: Exam problems will be more demanding and challenging than homework assignments.

Make-up Exams: There will be no make-up exams under any circumstances, except for documented medical reasons. You must provide your instructor with a letter from your medical doctor to schedule a make-up exam.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

Modified Operations Policies: With developments and improvements to digital instruction over the past few years, the Institute has developed policies to leverage digital learning as much as reasonably possible. The policy sets forth requirements, procedures, and responsibilities related to the scheduling of digital instruction and/or make-up classes due to the modification of campus operations, closing of campus, or the necessary closing of instructional spaces for any reason (including but not limited to emergencies, such as inclement weather, power outages, or other infrastructure failures). Students should await communications from their instructors regarding delivery of their classes during that period based upon the [Digital Learning Days for Modified Campus Operations Policy](#). Students should follow guidance and/or directions provided by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being regarding student activities, events, programs and services.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Laptop/Handheld Computer Use: Laptop/handheld computers may be used in class to take

notes ONLY, but not for other purposes, such as e-mail, Web site searches, chat, or other personal uses. Students using computers during class for work not related to that class may be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. Abuse of this policy will result in the prohibition of laptop use by this student.

Cell Phones: All communication devices must be turned off in the classroom. The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. No personal listening devices or personal transportation devices are permitted.

Computer Specifications: For information on computer specifications to meet Georgia Tech standards, visit www.coa.gatech.edu/computing/comp_specs.htm. Internet access is required for this course, as is an e-mail account for communication with the instructor.

Additional Course Policies

Breaks: We will typically take a 5-minute break roughly halfway through the 2 hour and 45-minute lecture. Students are expected to return to their seats before the 5-minute break ends and be ready to resume the lecture. The instructor reserves the right to delay or discontinue breaks.

Food and Drink in the Classroom: Students are not allowed to bring food into the classroom unless approved by the instructor.

Recordings: Recordings of lectures will be posted on Canvas; provided, however, there is no guarantee that the entire class will be recorded or that the recording will be of a good quality.

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:

- Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources:

A list of resources for graduate students is given on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website. Specific information for [current graduate students](#) includes

- [Academic Resources](#) such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may

impact your academic performance;

- Student Resources such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and

- *[Professional Development](#) such as the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events”*

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))