

Course Syllabus
RELE 1209 Real Estate Law

PROFESSOR: Dr. Petra Howard
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CLASS TIME: 3:30-5:20 PM Thursday
CLASSROOM: LBC 121

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course covers a study of the legal concepts of real estate, land description, real property rights, estates in land, contracts, conveyances, encumbrances, foreclosures, recording procedures, and evidence of title.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student will demonstrate a working knowledge of the Texas real estate contract forms; know state laws that regulate the use of real estate contracts; understand and describe definitions pertaining to legality of realty; write realty contracts that will be enforceable in a court of law; and know which forms can be utilized in conjunction with promulgated addenda.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS: Students will need a copy of the book Texas Real Estate Law, 12th Edition, by: Charles J. Jacobus. ISBN: 9781629802084. Please verify that the book purchased is the correct edition. Students will also need internet access to the Texas Real Estate Commission web page to find and print the newest versions of needed forms. A calculator will be needed on occasion.

GRADING: Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval (before the due date) and only for good cause. Grade equivalents: 90 to 100% = A; 80 to 89% = B; 70 to 79% = C; 60 to 69% = D; below 60% = F. The three lowest exam grades will be dropped.

Exams 100%

WITHDRAWAL POLICY: The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is **December 4th**. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be updated twice each week, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

EXAMINATION POLICY: There will be multiple examinations, including a final examination. All exams will be composed of objective (multiple choice and/or true/false) questions. The final examinations may be in essay format. Extra credit may be given at the instructor's discretion. The instructor will give assessments and engage in conversation related to real estate industry to gauge student success and to help foster a positive learning environment. The three lowest exams will be dropped. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

ASSIGNMENTS: Students are expected to attend class having **previously read the assigned chapters** and having completed all of the required assignments. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required as this course is **IN-PERSON face-to-face instruction**. Roll will not be taken. However, your attendance will impact your grade as all assignments cannot be made up. Pay close attention to the **READING SCHEDULE** to stay abreast of lecture and exam dates.

EXTRA CREDIT: Extra credit may be given at the instructor's discretion.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Real Estate agents will want to conduct themselves in a professional capacity once in the work force. Reputation and client service are keys to success in this business. Thus, classroom interactions will require the same level of professionalism, if not more. Classroom discussion is highly encouraged and a requirement for participation. That being said, respect for the opinions and views of others is imperative. Disruptive or unprofessional behavior in class is grounds for a student to be removed from the classroom and dropped from the course without notice. **NO EXCESSIVE WALKING OR TALKING ARE ALLOWED.**

CELL PHONES: Cell phones **must be muted** during all classroom interaction. Texting during class is prohibited. Violation of this policy may result in the student being removed from the classroom and dropped from the course.

COMPUTERS: Laptop computers can be used during class. They are to be used for educational enhancement for the course that is in session.

Intellectual Exchange Statement

In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302.

Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email dburleson@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team

South Plains College is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of its students and community. To support its campus community SPC has a CARE Team. This is a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for assessing and responding to students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risk to the health or safety of the community. If you see someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, posing a threat to their safety or someone else's safety, or causing a significant disruption to the SPC community, please submit a CARE Team referral. You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support. NOTE: In cases where a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Government Code 411.2031, et al. authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

COVID-19

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376

1. SPC will follow the recommended 5-day isolation period for individuals that test positive.
 - a. **Please note that day 0 is the date of positive test. Day 1 begins the first full day after the date of positive result.**
2. COVID reporting
 - a. Please have students and employees notify DeEtte Edens if they have tested positive to verify dates before returning to class or work.
 - b. The home tests are sufficient but students need to submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at dedens@southplainscollege.edu.
 - c. A student is clear to return to class without further assessment if they have completed:
 - The 5-day isolation period, symptoms have improved and
 - they are afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
3. Please instruct students and employees to communicate with DeEtte Edens prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 5-day isolation.
4. Exposed individuals will not be required to quarantine. If exposed, SPC does request individuals closely monitor themselves. If an individual does become symptomatic, please do not attend class or work and be tested.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

• Purpose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications:

AI applications such as ChatGPT, OpenAI, Bard, Grammarly, WordTune and others are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as, generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities.

• Academic Integrity:

Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

• Collaboration and Consultation:

While AI can be a valuable resource, it is essential to strike a balance between seeking assistance and maintaining personal responsibility. Collaboration with peers, consulting instructors, and utilizing other approved learning resources should be prioritized. Overreliance on AI for solutions without actively engaging in the learning process is discouraged and can be grounds for academic integrity violations. Utilizing AI as a tool for brainstorming or research is allowed but the writing should be the student's own work and thoughts.

• Critical Thinking and Originality:

AI usage can provide suggestions and information, but it is essential to critically evaluate the responses and exercise independent thought. Relying solely on AI for answers deprives students of the opportunity to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. In assignments where originality, creativity, and independent thinking are valued, AI would be detrimental to the student learning process. Critical thinking and originality emphasize the importance of independent thinking in all academic endeavors as part of the

student's learning experience apart from outside influence and offers the student the opportunity to refine their unique, individual voice through academic discourse with other students and faculty.

• **Ethical Use and Bias Awareness:**

AI is trained on large amounts of data from the internet, which may include biased or inaccurate information. Be mindful of the potential for bias and critically evaluate the responses provided by AI. Therefore, when using AI, just like with using any other database, students must verify that the information is from reliable sources, question any potential biases, and ensure that the information and sources used in the paper are neutral, peer-reviewed sources.

• **Responsible Engagement:**

Students should engage with AI in a respectful and responsible manner and avoid using offensive language, discriminatory remarks, or engaging in any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior. Students should also uphold the standards of respectful communication in addressing both AI and fellow classmates.

• **Compliance with South Plains College Policies:**

Policies regarding the appropriate use of AI in South Plains College courses are set by instructional departments and individual instructors. Appropriate use of AI may range from strict prohibition to assignments they may require the use of AI. Misusing or violating the guidelines outlined in this syllabus warning may result in disciplinary action, including academic penalties. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the specific course policies regarding the use of AI and adhere to them throughout the semester.

Remember, AI can be a tool to support your learning in certain courses and assignments, but it cannot replace the critical thinking, creativity, and independent work that are integral to your overall academic growth.

Student Identification Verification Pictures (added 12/3/2025)

EFFECTIVE SPRING 2026: In order to comply with institutional identity-verification procedures, students enrolled in courses at South Plains College must have a current photo available in the College's student information system. Approved photos are used solely for instructional, advising, and security purposes and are protected under applicable privacy laws. Students without a photo on file must update their record during the first week of class.

Pictures may be uploaded using these [instructions](#).

AUGUST		
27	Lecture: Chapter 1-3	Intro to Legal Concepts, Basic Contract Law & Promulgated Contracts, Legal Descriptions
SEPTEMBER		
3	Exam 1: Chapter 1-3	Exam 1: Chapter 1-3
10	Lecture: Chapter 4-6	Real Property Rights & How Ownership is Held, Regulations, Restrictions, & Land Use Controls, Estates in Land – Freehold Estates
17	Exam 2: Chapter 4-6	Exam 2: Chapter 4-6
24	Lecture: Chapter 7-9	Estates in Land – Statutory Estates, Voluntary Conveyances, Involuntary Conveyances

OCTOBER

1	Lecture: Chapters 10-12	Fixtures & Easements, Real Estate Brokerage, Agency
8	Exam 3: Chapter 10-12	Exam 4: Chapter 10-12
15	Lecture: Chapter 13-15	Liens & Encumbrances, Mortgages & Foreclosures, Recording Procedures, Constructive Notice, Acknowledgements
22	Exam 4: Chapter 13-15	Exam 5: Chapter 13-15
29	Lecture: Chapter 16-19	Interest & Finance Charge, Title Assurance, Evidence & Transfer of Title, Closings, Landlord & Tenant Relationships

NOVEMBER

5	Lecture: Chapter 20	Condominiums & Cooperatives
12	Exam 5: Chapter 20	Exam 6: Chapter 20
19	Lecture: Chapter 21	Real Estate Taxation
26	Thanksgiving Holiday	NO CLASS

DECEMBER

3	Final Exam Issued	Final Exam Issued
10	Final Exam DUE	Final Exam DUE
11	Fall Commencement Ceremony	10:30 AM in Texan Dome, Levelland