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**BCN 3761 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION
AND COMMUNICATION
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2016**

INSTRUCTOR

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Notes concerning office hours: Meetings at other times can be arranged. The object is to ensure that there is an opportunity to discuss whatever needs to be discussed. Students with appointments will take priority over walk-ins. Walk-ins will be seen, time permitting. Appointments may be scheduled through the departmental secretaries who can be reached at: (305) 348-3172 (EC) or (954) 438-8600 (FI75).

Class Schedule: R, 1825-2105, Room EC 2410, FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Engineering Center (MMC - EC)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Writing and transmitting construction documentation for technical and legal requirements for construction projects in a global context. Stresses development of verbal and written communication skills.

ACCE CATEGORY: CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will gain an understanding with the requirements for the organization and writing of technical specifications and other documentation for construction projects and the conduct of such projects in both domestic and international domains. The topical contents of this course include:

- Terminology and units of measure
- Standards designations, sizes, and graduations
- Conformance references and testing techniques
- Products, systems and interface issues
- Notes and specifications, reference conventions

GLOBAL LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES

This course is a global learning course that meets the FIU Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) criteria for Global Learning Student Learning Outcomes (GLSLOs).

By learning the differences and similarities encountered in the performance of the work of construction projects in various countries outside of the U.S., students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of local, international and intercultural issues that present themselves during these activities. By comparing how similar construction problems are solved in other countries, students will be able to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of specific problem solving techniques and solutions. This will foster a willingness to work on diverse teams engaged in international and intercultural problem solving in order to successfully complete the construction project.

Upon completion of this course, the student will have achieved the following global learning course outcomes.

The student will:

Global Awareness

- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of local, international and intercultural issues that present themselves during the implementation of construction projects involving collaborators from various countries around the world.

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Global Perspective

- Be able to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of specific problem solving techniques and solutions used in the implementation of construction projects involving collaborators from various countries around the world.

Global Engagement

- Demonstrate a willingness to work on a diverse team engaged in international and intercultural problem solving in order to successfully complete a construction project that involves collaborators from various countries around the world.

PRE-REQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXT BOOK

1) Rosen, H.J., Kalin, M., Weygant, Robert S., & Regener, J.R., Jr. (2010), CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION WRITING, 6th Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (Required) The text is available at the *FIU @ I-75 Campus (FI75)* book store. It may also be available from the on line book stores of Barnes & Noble as well as Amazon.com.

REQUIRED READING

- 1) H. W. Chan, E., and Y.C. Tse, R., "Cultural Considerations in International Construction Contracts," Journal of Construction Engineering and Management © ASCE/July/August 2003, P. 375
- 2) Pheng, L.S., and H. Y. Leong, C., "Cross-cultural Project Management for International Construction in China," International Journal of Project Management 18 (2000) 307-316
- 3) Gunhan, Suat, and Arditi, David, "Factors Affecting International Construction," Journal of Construction Engineering and Management © ASCE/March 2005, P. 273
- 4) Dadfar, H., and Gustavsson, P., "Competition by Effective Management of Cultural Diversity," Int. Studies of Mgt. & Org., Vol. 22, No. 4, pp. 81-92

SCHOOL MISSION

The OHL School of Construction's mission is to provide enlightened leadership to the construction industry through its graduates; to increase and to improve the body of working knowledge; and to promote the interdisciplinary transfer of technology. The School also strives to produce professional construction managers who are informed and participating citizens with a sense of civic duty and responsibility; persons with a sense of dignity whose actions express high moral and ethical standards; and professionals who strive to comprehend the impact of their work on their own lives as well as on the society in which they live.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is required at all class sessions. One (1) percentage point will be deducted from a student's final grade average for each unexcused absence and one-half (1/2) point will be deducted for each time a student is late without an approved excuse.

CONDUCT/GRADING

Homework will be assigned and collected on the dates indicated in the syllabus. Late submissions will not be accepted. There will be **two (2) examinations, one (1) short essay, a term paper with an oral presentation** and occasional class participation, as requested by the instructor. All of these elements are required for successful completion of the course. **Make-up examinations will not be given unless an absence is approved ahead of time or in the event of a verifiable illness or emergency.** Work or vacation is not an emergency. The final grade for the course will be based on the students' understanding of the course material as evidenced by their performance on examinations, assignments, and class participation as follows:

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Term Paper [(4) pages minimum plus oral presentation]	20%
One (1) short essay (2 pages minimum)	15%
Two (2) examinations totaling 65% [Exam 1 (Midterm): 30%; Exam 2 (Final): 35%].....	65%

These weights may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the emphasis placed on the material presented during the course. All examinations, homework, and other student work are the intellectual property of the student, but may be retained by the instructor. Examination dates, homework assignments and due dates are indicated in the Course Outline, but are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the responsibility of the student to keep abreast of the class schedule. **Absence from class will not be acceptable as a valid reason for missing a scheduled examination or submittal of a class assignment. Each student should obtain contact information from at least two (2) classmates so that important class information may be transmitted in case of an unavoidable absence.**

CELL PHONES

The activation or use of any telecommunications device (pager, telephone, radio, etc.) during class session is strictly forbidden except when the student can reasonably expect an emergency call and so informs the instructor ahead of time. **WORK RELATED AND NORMAL FAMILY OR SOCIAL CALLS ARE NOT AN EMERGENCY. Students should disable any audible alarm or signal on such devices prior to class.** Individuals whose pagers, telephones, etc., are audibly activated during class may be asked to leave the session and recurrent instances with the same individual may result in a failing grade for the course.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The School adheres to the University's policy concerning religious holidays as stated in the University catalogue. Any student may request to be excused from a class to observe a religious holiday for their faith. Assignments due on that day will be due the day following the holiday. If a quiz falls on a religious holiday, an alternate date will be provided. Students are expected to inform the instructor **ahead of time** so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Any act of academic misconduct, e.g., cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, etc., **will not be tolerated.** A student found to be engaging in such behavior will receive an automatic "F" in the course and may be subject to additional disciplinary sanctions, including expulsion from the University.

STUDENT CODE OF STANDARDS

By attending this class, the student is required to comply with the Florida International University Student Code of Standards, including, but not limited to, references concerning classroom behavior, discrimination, sexual harassment and academic misconduct. **A copy of the Code may be found in the University Student Handbook.**

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Students with disabilities who may need special accommodations should register with the Disability Resource Center (GC 190, MMC), telephone (305) 348-3532. In addition, they are encouraged to contact the instructor so that arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs.

COURSE PROCEDURES

This course involves the study of writing and transmitting construction documentation for technical and legal requirements for construction projects in a global context, and also stresses the development of verbal and written communication skills. Construction sites are global venues. It is essential that those who work in construction management, whether they be technicians, managers, foremen, architects, or laborers, gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes requisite to collaborate on international teams and engage in multi-perspective problem-solving. This course will explore the interrelationship of global issues that impact the conduct of a construction project. Students will gain skills in perspective-taking, and engage in activities in which they will have the opportunity to demonstrate their multi-perspective problem-solving skills in a global context.

Depending upon class size, students will be organized either **individually** OR in **teams of two** to fulfill the term project requirements of researching an assigned topic, preparing a comprehensive written report of their

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findings and then discussing the results of their research in an oral presentation. The assigned project will consist of an international construction project case study that will address how construction activities, conducted in a country outside the U.S. involving collaborators from various countries around the world, interact with global issues, trends and systems.

TERM RESEARCH PROJECT: TBA IN CLASS

COURSE WEBSITE

The course website is: bcn3761.weebly.com. Students in this course **MUST** login to the website at least once per day, in order to keep abreast of changes, updates, etc. that may present themselves throughout the semester. Emails should **NOT** be sent to my FIU mail, but to the course mail: baier.ohlsc@gmail.com.

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