

CNST-2540: OHIO LANDS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: CNST-2540 : Ohio Lands

Board of Trustees:

1/30/2025

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

CNST - Construction Engineering Tech

Course Number:

2540

Title:

Ohio Lands

Catalog Description:

The study of the history and development of the original Ohio land subdivisions. Review of colonial systems and the Public Land Survey System in the United States. Historic methods of measuring the earth.

Credit Hour(s):

2

Lecture Hour(s):

2

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

CNST-2110 Basic Survey Practices or concurrent enrollment or departmental approval

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Apply the principles of Ohio Land Grants in explaining how the State of Ohio is laid out.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

Objective(s):

1. Draw and identify the original Ohio land subdivisions.
2. Explain historic significance of each of the original Ohio land subdivisions.

Course Outcome(s):

Explain how historic land systems have been used in the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Explain methods and techniques that have been historically used to measure the earth and land boundaries.
2. Identify and explain land systems used in the United States.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Exams
2. Quizzes
3. Homework

Course Content Outline:

1. First arrivals in Ohio and original crown land grants
 - a. Viking expeditions to North America
 - b. English settlement and smallpox
 - c. Natives that were in Ohio prior to settlement
 - d. Original colonial land grants and original borders
 - e. Native treaties ceding Native lands.
 - f. French and Indian War Summary and impacts to Ohio
2. Historic measurement techniques and land systems in United States
 - a. Colonial systems
 - i. Historic measuring units (rods, chains, etc.)
 - ii. Ceding of original colonial claims in Northwest Territory
3. Land Act of 1785
 - a. Northwest Territory creation and layout
 - b. Creation of land boundary between Northwest Territory and Pennsylvania
 - c. Other colony boundaries
 - d. Initial grid system
4. Old Seven Ranges, Ohio Company's Purchase, Donation Tract
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Layout of the tracts
5. Virginia Military District
 - a. History and formation
 - b. Virginia's ceding of Northwest Territory claim
 - c. Layout of tracts
6. Symmes Purchase
 - a. History and formation
 - b. Impact of tract's poor management on handling of future land grants
 - c. Attempts at correcting errors
7. The Indian War of 1790-1795 – French Grants
 - a. Native Wars in 1790-1795
 - b. French Grants history and formation
 - c. Layout of French Grants
8. The Land Act of 1796
 - a. Summary
 - b. How land sales worked
 - c. Public Land Survey System (PLSS)
9. US Military District
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Layout of tracts
10. Congress Lands
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Layout of tracts
11. West of the Muskingum River
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Layout of tracts
12. Firelands, 12 Mile Square Reserve
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Layout of tracts
13. Congress Lands
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Layout of tracts
 - c. Ohio's western boundary

14. Michigan Meridian Survey
 - a. History and formation of tracts
 - b. Michigan War
 - c. Layout of tract
 - d. Ohio's northern boundary

The Course Schedule is subject to change due to pedagogical needs, instructor discretion, parts of term, and unexpected events.

Resources for the Instructor

Knepper, George. (2002) *The Official Ohio Lands Book*, The Auditor of the State of Ohio. <https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/docs/OhioLandsBook.pdf>

Williams, James. (2015) *Blazes, Posts, & Stones: A History of Ohio's Original Land Subdivisions*, University of Akron Press.

Ghilani, Charles D. *Elementary Surveying: An Introduction to Geomatics*. 16th ed. Pearson, 2022.

Henkin, David M. and Rebecca McLennan. *Becoming America*. 2nd ed. McGraw Hill, 2022.

Additional Resources for the Instructor

1. Redmond, Ed (2019) *Surveying: The Art of Measuring Land* (<https://blogs.loc.gov/maps/2019/11/surveying-the-art-of-measuring-land-part-one/>)
2. Cleveland Public Library Digital Gallery. <https://cplorg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p4014coll24/search> (<https://cplorg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p4014coll24/search/>)
3. The Ohio Lands Book is still the current official book by the Ohio Auditor of State's Office <https://ohio.gov/government/resources/ohio-lands> (<https://ohio.gov/government/resources/ohio-lands/>)

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