LDEV 663 – Introduction to Project Management

LDEV 663 provides an overview of the land development process from conceptual design to the final recording of the plat. With a focus on project management and construction practices, class lectures provide knowledge of developing and managing construction budgets, evaluating and interpreting construction contracts, and overseeing the construction process for infrastructure such as detention ponds, water, sewer, and drainage systems, and paving improvements. The course also covers the creation and operation of public finance districts in Texas and project scheduling using software like MS Project or Smartsheet.

Learning Objectives:

* Understand and describe the land development process from conceptual planning to final plat recordation, including the construction and acceptance of public improvements.
* Develop and manage construction budgets, including cost allocation and change orders, and demonstrate the ability to prepare and review pay applications.
* Interpret contracts with engineers and consultants, including scopes of services, limitations, liabilities, and risk assessments, as well as the key components of construction contracts.
* Evaluate construction plans for infrastructure projects, including detention ponds, water, sewer, drainage improvements, and paving systems.
* Oversee the construction process, including site preparation, grading, utility installation, paving, and construction materials testing, and manage the acceptance of improvements by local authorities.
* Describe the formation and operation of public finance districts in Texas and assess opportunities for developer cost reimbursements.
* Organize and manage development schedules using project management software, understanding critical path analysis and task management.

Attached is a budget to actual expense comparison for a residential development.

Photo source: <https://www.fortunebuilders.com/p/raw-land-investing/>