

Southern Arkansas University Tech
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Online Course Information Sheet

Course Number: FS2163

Course Title: Legal Aspects of Fire Service

Course Description: This course introduces the Federal, state, and local laws that regulate emergency services; national standards influencing emergency services; standard of care, tort liability, and review of relevant court cases. Internet students must have access to the Internet and a browser.

Instructor Name: Mike Brackin

Instructor Bio:

Prerequisite: None.

Textbook Title: Varone, Curtis J. (2007). Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services. Delmar Publishers. Albany, N.Y.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, by scoring 70% or better on exams and other required assignments, the student:

1. Define the different types of law and explain their basic differences, and how the law functions in society.
2. Become familiar with federal, state, and local laws, which regulate or influence emergency services.
3. Explain the role and purpose of national codes and standards concerning their legal influence.
4. Become familiar with legal decisions that has or will affect the fire service.
5. Discuss the organization and legal structure of the fire department.
6. Define the liabilities of firefighters.
7. Recognize legal duties of emergency service members.
8. Discuss negligence in an emergency setting.
9. Define discrimination and identify areas of potential discrimination in the emergency service.
10. Identify, explain, and discuss the legalities of entrance requirements, residency, grooming, and drug testing.
11. Discuss the scope of the civil rights act.
12. Discuss the parameters and explain the basic intent of the ADA, FSLA, and FMLA.
13. Explain the at-will doctrine.
14. Explain the purpose of labor and employment laws.

Teaching Methodology, including description of interaction between student and instructor:

Students are expected to read their assignments and turn in their written assignments and participate in the discussion board. There will be written assignments designed to incorporate text material into applicable knowledge. This material is not graded but is checked and must be submitted to get credit for unit tests and exams. This will be followed by a research project on an assigned topic and a closed book proctored final examination that covers material found in the text. See [Final Exam Information](#) below Blackboard Campus Bookmarks for more information.

Written assignments must be completed and submitted by the assigned deadlines. When preparing your written assignment, it will be necessary to conduct some research on the given topic. When you use others ideas and/or facts, it is necessary to properly cite the sources in the written assignment to avoid committing plagiarism. Students who commit plagiarism will be punished harshly. If you are not sure about how to properly cite resources, I suggest you go to the bookstore and purchase a writing style manual. The format suggested by the American Psychological Association (APA) is the writing style used for this degree. Also, part of becoming an officer is being able to express your thoughts and ideas properly. When writing your assignments, you must write as though your audience is someone who is not familiar with the subject-matter content.

Grades will be earned as such:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = less than 60

Discussion questions account for 25% of the total grade, unit exams account for 25% of the total grade and the project and the final exam account for 25% each.

Assignments must be submitted by the completion date in order to proceed to the next phase of the class. Completion dates for Unit 1 is January 27, 2010; Unit 2 is February 10, 2010; Unit 3 is February 24, 2010; Unit 4 is March 10, 2010; Unit 5 is March 31, 2010, Unit 6 is April 06, 2010; and Unit 7 is April 20, 2010. The research project is due by April 20, 2010. As a student, you must show a reasonable and satisfactory progress toward completing the course and its assignments. Failure to show reasonable progress will result in the student being dropped or failed. The last day to drop with a grade of "W" is April 21, 2010. Students must also maintain contact with the instructor on a regular basis throughout the semester. The instructor may drop or fail a student if reasonable progress is not demonstrated. It is the students' responsibility to drop a class.

The total length for an assignment or response to a discussion question varies but the RESEARCH PAPER and/or project must be 5 or more typed pages (double-spaced) *excluding the title page and the reference page(s)*. A title or cover page and a reference page shall accompany the research paper or project. Assignments must be submitted via your Blackboard in a word document format. I will not accept faxed papers or assignments on a disk. You are to use Times New Roman font 12pt. type with 1-inch borders. Your writing must reflect a post-secondary education level of writing. I encourage each of you to double check for fundamental writing errors before turning in your work. The research paper must include six (6) scholarly resources (books, journals, texts, etc...) of which only two can be internet references/resources.

There will be discussion questions posted for each unit. Work your assignment for each unit and then answer the discussion question for the given unit. There is also a research project required for this course.

Methods of Testing:

Tests and exams are administered via Blackboard. The final exam is also but must be taken at an approved proctor site.

Enrollment Procedures:

Non-degree seeking students applying for admission to SAU Tech must submit an application for admission, appropriate placement test scores or, if applicable, official college transcript(s) with proof of Composition I and Intermediate Algebra (having earned a letter grade of "C" or better).

Full-time degree seeking students and part-time degree seeking students applying for financial aid applying for admission to SAU Tech must submit an application for admission, appropriate placement test scores, immunization record (if born after 01/01/1957), high school transcript or GED scores, and official college transcript(s), if applicable. (Note: Part-time students not applying for financial aid do not have to submit immunization record.)

Students are responsible for all tuition and fees at the time of registration. Students must officially drop by written notice or in person in order to reduce their balance owed. If students never attend class, he/she will still be assessed partial tuition and full student processing fees, unless completely he/she completely withdraws during the 100% refund period.

In order for a student to drop a class, he/she must complete a drop form or send written request to his/her advisor. A \$10 add/drop fee is assessed for adds/drops that take place after classes start.

Special Enrollment Issues (specialized software or equipment, access to a particular network, or similar requirements): None.

Special Attendance Requirements (student contact with instructor, proctored examinations, etc.):

The final exam must be taken at an approved proctor site.

Access to Learning Resources:

Students will receive all required discussion materials through the Internet, links to texts, and the electronic mail with Blackboard. Students will be required to purchase the course textbook, if applicable, and Learning Resource Center access is encouraged but not required to be successful. Textbooks can be ordered online. The Bookstore number is (870) 574-4510. The Library number is (870) 574-4518.

Other Considerations (writing ability, assignments/projects, time considerations, etc.):

Students will need Internet access, Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and the ability to send and receive e-mail attachments using the e-mail within Blackboard.