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.

Instructor: James Utsey

Instructor Bio: : For the past 34 years James has served in various capacities as a member of the professional fire service. He began his career with the Camden, Arkansas Fire Department in March of 1979. He retired from the Camden Fire Department in 1999 at the rank of Captain after 20 years of service. James became an adjunct instructor with the Arkansas Fire Academy in 1995. In 2002 he began his career as a full time instructor with the academy. In 2007 he became Assistant Director for On Campus Programs and Coordinator for the Firefighter Standards Program. In 2009 he began managing the IFSAC (International Fire Service Accreditation Congress) and ProBoard (National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications) accreditation/certification and testing programs. In 2009 James founded Operation S.A.F.E (Smoke Alarms For the Elderly), a grant funded program to provide and install smoke detectors for the elderly citizens of Camden and Ouachita County. James has an A.A in General Studies from Southern Arkansas University Tech. in Camden, Arkansas, an A.A.S in Fire Protection Technology from Garland County Community College in Hot Springs, Arkansas, a B.P.S in Fire Administration from the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee, and a MPA in Public Administration from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Prerequisite: None

Textbook Information: Varone, C. J. (2007). *Legal considerations for fire and emergency services.* Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers.

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

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.

On-Campus Requirement
The final exam must be taken at an approved proctor site. Visit the college website at www.sautech.edu for detailed information.

Modes of Interaction:
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 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

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.

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 Assessment:
Tests and exams are administered via Blackboard. The final exam must be taken at an approved proctor site.

Enrollment Procedures:
SAU Tech is an open admissions college; however, we have several items that you must provide in order to be admitted:
- Submit application for admission.
- Submit a high school transcript or GED, and official college transcripts from all previously attended colleges (if applicable).
- Provide proof of two immunizations against measles, mumps and rubella.
- Take a placement test. Students enrolling must submit ACT, SAT, ASSET or COMPASS scores. Students can take the ASSET or COMPASS test at SAU Tech.

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 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 drop fee is assessed for drops that take place after the registration period ends.

Admissions Office Website: http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/admissions.aspx

Course Registration Website: http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/advising.aspx

Technical Requirements and Resources: Students will need Internet access and have the ability to send and receive e-mail attachments using the e-mail within Blackboard.

Library Website: http://www.sautech.edu/lrc/index.aspx

Bookstore Website: http://sautech.textbooktech.com

Adult Learner Resources: Online library and bookstore services can be obtained at the library and bookstore websites. Advising services can be obtained at http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/advising.aspx.

Student Support and Learning Resources: Online library and bookstore services can be obtained at the library and bookstore websites. Advising services can be obtained at http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/advising.aspx.

Other Considerations
Prior computer skills are essential for success in an online class. Prior to enrolling in an online class, you should be able to:
- Surf the Internet and download web pages
- E-mail and attach files and know proper e-mail etiquette
- Use Microsoft Word skills and submit papers with correct format, grammar and spelling

All first time online students are required to complete Learning Strategies before they will be allowed to take their online course(s). The purpose of Learning Strategies is to teach students how to use Blackboard and provide information about other systems that students will use while a student at SAU Tech.

There are computer programs and other things that you will need if you are taking an online course from SAU Tech. To make it easier for you, we have compiled a list of these things. Before beginning your online course, you should go ahead and make sure each of these programs listed below are loaded on every computer that you will use while taking your online course(s).
- Microsoft Word – used to complete assignments and submit to instructor
  - Can be accessed via SkyDrive inside your student email account. **FREE**
  - Can be purchased from Wal Mart or other software vendor and will need to be loaded on to your computer
  - There is also a **free** product that works just as good as the Microsoft Office Suite. You can download it at http://download.openoffice.fm/free/?pk=26976
- Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher – used to read files in pdf format
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html
- Adobe Flash Player (7 or higher) – used to view study activities and demonstrations in Learning Strategies course
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash
- Macromedia Shockwave Player 8.5.1 – used for interactive quizzes, animations and activities
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?
- Windows Media Player – used to listen play audio files
  - Cost: Free
  - Comes as part of your Windows operating system
- Java – a technology that is required in order for Blackboard to function properly as well as some other programs that SAU Tech uses with its online classes (**Note: Only one version of Java can be running on your computer at a time.)**
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from http://javashoplm.sun.com/ECom/docs/Welcome.jsp?StoreId=22&PartDetailId=jre-