

El Paso Community College

Syllabus

Part II

Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Fire Technology</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>FIRT 2433</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>Fire and Arson Investigation II</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>4 3 : 3</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Fire investigation techniques and defense of findings in a courtroom setting. **Prerequisite: FIRT 1303. (3:3). Lab fee.**

II. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify and describe individuals to be contacted and involved in fatality fire investigations, other possible related crimes, documentation procedures related to body discovery and removal, examination of the victim, and the effects of fire on the human body.
- B. Identify and explain hazards and safeguards of various appliances, electrical theory and indicators of damaged to electrical systems, sources of spontaneous heating, examples of smoking, low temperature ignition, and unprotected flames and sparks as fire origin.
- C. Identify and interpret char and burn patterns, low burns, indicators to determine heat buildup and fire levels, the effects of fire attack, ventilation, salvage and overhaul and their relationship to point of origin determination, and the responsibilities of fire suppression personnel.
- D. Inspect, evaluate, and identify fire scenes to determine, point of origin, source of ignition, progression, extinguishment and containment, document the fire scene, collect and preserve evidence, obtain information from others, factors related to fire scene origin and cause determination, present findings to those not involved in the actual investigation.
- E. Identify and explain indicators, construction and usage of incendiary devices in incendiary fires.
- F. Define, describe, and explain the term explosion, various types and characteristics of explosions, procedures for securing the scene, methods used to conduct and investigation of an explosion scene, and information related to explosive devices and incidents.
- G. Identify sources available, methods of obtaining information during a criminal investigation, and the penalty for disclosing or distributing confidential information.
- H. Describe and identify the purpose of scene sketches and proper crime scene sketching techniques.
- I. Describe and explain the purpose of crime scene photography, importance of timing, the proper usage of photographic equipment, and techniques of photographing a crime scene.
- J. Describe techniques and methods used in conducting interviews, the law, methods and techniques as they apply in conducting interrogations.
- K. Identify and describe proper techniques for compiling a note book and report writing.
- L. Identify, define and describe laws and procedures relating to criminal investigation, associated terms, procedures used in handling juvenile offenders, significant court decisions, steps for case and trial preparation, and factors affecting courtroom testimony.

- M. Define, describe and identify types of evidence, methods of preserving protecting evidence, contaminations containers and evidence, methods of collecting evidence, impact of chain of custody to an investigation, transporting evidence, analytical methods and tests to certain fire investigations, and proper procedure for evidence disposition.
- N. Identify, describe and define sources that can provide information on terroristic groups organized crime and gang, racketeering activity, enterprise, pattern of racketeering, Laws applicable to racketeering, and state laws applicable to persons engaging in organized criminal activity.

III. THECB Learning Outcomes (WECM)

- 1. Identify the elements of a fire investigation from the fire scene to the courtroom.
- 2. Demonstrate techniques such as sketching, photographing, interviewing, and documenting.

IV. Evaluation

Attendance Policy: Students absent for two or more class periods without a valid excuse as determined by the instructor may be dropped from the course. Any exam or assignment not completed as a result of an unexcused absence will receive a grade of "0" for that exam or assignment.

Students who do not attend class before or on the census date listed in the Credit Course Schedule and the Course Calendar and have not contacted the instructor with a valid excuse will be dropped from the course.

Tardiness Policy: Students must be seated and ready to begin class at the scheduled time. Students tardy for two or more class periods without a valid excuse as determined by the instructor may be dropped from the course.

Expect class to last the entire scheduled time. Students may not leave class early without a valid excuse or without having made arrangements with the instructor. Students doing so will be considered absent for that class period.

Withdrawal Policy: Students who desire to withdraw are responsible for initiating withdrawal action through the EPCC Registrar's Office according to the policy in the Credit Class Schedule. **After the drop date listed in the Credit Class Schedule and the Course Calendar, students will receive a grade based upon all required items. Items not completed will be given a grade of "0".**

Students requesting an Incomplete, "I", must comply with EPCC policies and procedures listed in the Credit Class Schedule.

Cheating Policy: Students determined to be cheating on an exam or plagiarizing another student's assignment will be given a grade of "0" for that exam or assignment. An incident report documenting the circumstances will be prepared by the Instructor and submitted to the Instructional Coordinator of Fire Technology and then forwarded to the Instructional Dean Occupational Education. A copy of the report will be provided to the student. A second such incident will be grounds for dismissal of the student from the course with a grade of "F".

Grading Scale

- A: 90 - 100
- B: 80 - 89
- C: 75 - 79
- D: 70 - 74
- F: 0 - 69

V. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

VI. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.

VII. Title IX and Sex Discrimination

Title 9 (20 U.S.C. 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106) states the following "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prohibits stalking, date violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence for all students, employees and visitors (male and female). If you have any concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or assault (of any type) you can contact the Assistant to the Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services at 915-831-2655. Employees can call the Manager of Employee Relations at 915-831-6458. Reports of sexual assault/violence may also be reported to EPCC Police at 915-831-2200.