Firefighter Safety and Survival Syllabus

Professor:  Brian Carlson, Adjunct Professor  
College of Engineering & Applied Science  
brian.carlson@uc.edu  
513.616.7995

Course Description:  
The purpose of this course is to reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities by discussing topics that impact firefighter safety. On average there are over 100 firefighter fatalities every year, despite an overall decline in the occurrence of fire incidents in the United States. In addition to line-of-duty deaths that occur during or immediately following an incident firefighters are chronically exposed to hazardous work environments that can have long term health impacts. This course will examine textbooks, national standards, the 16 Life Safety Initiatives, and current events to identify changes that must occur to create a culture of safety within fire and emergency services.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
The objectives of this course are consistent with the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) model. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and describe the need for cultural and behavioral changes within emergency service.
- Explain the need for enhancements of personal and organizational accountability for health and safety.
- Define how the concepts of risk management affect strategies and tactical decision making.
- Describe and evaluate circumstances that might constitute an unsafe act.
- Explain the concept of empowering all emergency services personnel to stop unsafe acts.
- Validate the need for national training standards as they correlate to professional development.
- Defend the need for annual medical evaluations and the establishment of physical fitness criteria.
- Explain the vital role of local departments in national research and data collection systems.
- Illustrate how technological advancements can produce higher levels of safety and survival.
- Explain the importance of investigating all near misses, injuries, and fatalities.
- Discuss how incorporating the lessons learned from investigations can support cultural change.
- Describe how obtaining grants can support safety and survival initiatives.
- Formulate an awareness of how adopting standardized policies for responding to emergency scenes can minimize near misses, injuries, and fatalities.
- Explain how the increase in violent incidents impacts safety for emergency services personnel when responding to emergency scenes.
• Recognize the need for counseling and psychological support for emergency services personnel, their families, as well as identify access to local resources and services.
• Explain the importance of public education as a critical component of life safety programs.
• Discuss the importance of fire sprinklers and code enforcement.
• Explain the importance of safety in the design of apparatus and equipment.

**Mentor:**
If you are not an active member of a fire department, you must have a Mentor for this class. You can establish a Mentor relationship with an Officer on a paid or part-paid fire department from your community (not volunteer FD since not facing similar issues covered in this class), or you may contact one of the UC Fire Science graduates who have kindly agreed to serve as a Mentor: [http://aerospace.ceas.uc.edu/FireScience/faculty_mentors.html](http://aerospace.ceas.uc.edu/FireScience/faculty_mentors.html)

Students using a Mentor shall post along with your resume, their Mentor’s name, rank, fire department and cell phone number.

**Textbooks:**

Numerous standards, articles, and internet sources that can be found in the course

**Best Term Papers:**
In each course, your professor will select the “best” term paper. With the student’s written permission, it will be posted at [http://aerospace.ceas.uc.edu/FireScience- BEST PAPERS](http://aerospace.ceas.uc.edu/FireScience- BEST PAPERS). Please review posted papers prior to writing your term paper – great topics.

**Virtual Office:**
The Blackboard Virtual Office discussion forum is used to post questions to the instructor and other students about the course materials. Posting them here will allow others who might have similar questions to see responses. Your instructor will be checking the Virtual Office frequently to answer any questions that may have been posted. In many cases your classmates may be able to provide assistance. Nothing in the Virtual Office will be graded.

**E-mails:**
When sending e-mails use only your UC e-mail address. Each e-mail shall identify the name and the number of the course.

**UC Blackboard Help Desk:**
If need technical advice, call 513-556-1602.
Weekly Assignments:
The tasks for each week are posted in corresponding links found in the weekly assignments tab.

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a. Discussion Board – 420 available points
   • Respond to initial questions by Wednesday evening at 10:00pm EST. Reply to 2 responses per thread by Sunday at 10:00pm EST. Each thread is worth 10 points (30 points per week). See the discussion board rubric in course documents.

b. Quizzes – 130 available points
   • Each quiz is worth 10 points.

c. Assignments – 250 available points
   • Due in weeks 2, 6, 9, and 10.

d. Mid-Term Exam – 50 available points
   • Given at the end of week 7 and covers all topics up to that point.

e. Term Paper – 400 available points
   • 8-12 page research paper covering a topic related to firefighter safety. It is due by the end of week 14. The paper shall be written in APA format including all references (See web resources for a link to an APA writing guide). See the term paper rubric for further details.

f. Final Exam – 250 available points
   • Available in week 15 and covers the entire course.

Late Assignments:
Assignments submitted by the due date may receive up to 100 percent of the value of the assignment. Assignments submitted one day late will lose 10%; two days late 20%; three days late 30%; etc. Only acceptable formal written excuses (medical doctor, jury duty, military assignments, and a few others) may enable the instructor to waive the deductions. Advance notice by the student to the instructor of possible upcoming late submittals will help facilitate such a waiver.
Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is considered cheating and I have included a link to the college’s policy on plagiarism and cheating below. Plagiarism will result in an automatic failure. Assignments will be submitted to SafeAssign to see if there has been any plagiarism.

http://www.ceas.uc.edu/content/dam/ceas/documents/currentstudents/WHATISPLAGIARISM.pdf

Grading:
Grades will be based on maximum of 1500 points.

A 1350-1500
B 1200-1349
C 1050-1199
D 900-1049
F Below 899