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*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**Fire Science**  
**FSMT299 Fire Science Sophomore Seminar**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**8 Week Course**  
**Prerequisite(s) This is the last course in the AS**  
**Fire Science degree path**

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## Instructor Information

**Instructor:** See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

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## Course Description (Catalog)

This course is a culminating course for the Associate of Science in Fire Science degree. It is designed to allow the student to review, analyze and integrate the work the student has completed toward a degree in Fire Science. The student will complete an approved academic project or paper that demonstrates his or her grasp of the fire science field. This is a culminating course to be taken after all other Associate of Science in Fire Science courses have been satisfactorily completed. Student must have SOPHOMORE standing to register. Prerequisite: **This course is to be taken as the LAST course in the AS in the Fire Science Program.**

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## Course Scope

This course will allow the student to reflect upon their academic journey through the AS in the Fire Science Program allowing the student to demonstrate their mastery of the major themes learned during their studies. The activities and assignments are geared so that students will build towards creating a Final Project Paper that demonstrates the students ability to critically think and analyze areas in the fire science field.

## Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function, principles, and concepts of fire science as they relate to fire response and protection.
2. Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to resolve typical fire science situations or facts.
3. Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.
4. Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.
5. Produce a fire science literature review using acceptable scholarly references.
6. Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.
7. Produce a scholarly academic paper or project using proper citation format.

## Course Delivery Method

This A.S. in Fire Science course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. **Online assignments are due by the last day of each week** and include Forum Board questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded Forum board), examinations and quizzes (graded electronically), and individual assignments (submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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## Course Materials

**This course will not require an assignment eBook or textbook. The course material will be delivered using scholarly articles, Power Point Presentations (PPP), and web based sources that are located within the weekly lessons sections of the electronic classroom.**

## Evaluation Procedures

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following course requirements:

1. **Forum Questions and Responses to Other Students Work:** Each student will be required to answer the weekly Forum question and respond to at least two other students. The Forum questions can be found on the Forum Board. Students will be required to post their weekly Forum question to the proper Forum board. There are eight (8) graded Forum board assignments. Weekly Forum questions will account for 30% of the student's final course grade.
2. **Annotated Bibliography Assignment:** Each student will be required to write an APA Style annotated bibliography. The scholarly references selected by the student will be used in the Final Project Paper. The annotated bibliography is located in the assignment section of the class. The Annotated Bibliography Assignment will account for 20% of the students final course grade.
3. **Final Project Paper Topic Selection Assignment:** Each student will be required to select a topic. Have the topic approved by the course professor, and write and outline for their Final Project and submit the outline to the assignment section for grading. The outline must be detailed and formatted in APA Style. The Final Project Topic Selection Assignment is worth 5% of the student's final course grade.
4. **Final Project Paper:** The term project is posted in the assignment section of the class. The term project is a 1250-word APA Style Analytical Paper. The Final Project Paper will account for 40% of the student's final course grade.

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30% = Forum Questions and Response  
10% = Final Project Paper Topic Selection Assignment  
20% = Annotated Bibliography Assignment  
40% = Final Project Paper  
100% = Total Course Points

Classroom participation is necessary for distance education. This is not an electronic correspondence course. You will have to interact with your fellow students and your professor. The more interaction that we achieve will increase our knowledge of each other, the course material, and the learning process.

It is imperative that the student stays in contact with the professor and university. If your work schedule changes, or you are deployed, a family emergency occurs, or anything that will cause your course assignments to be late. You must make contact with me. I will work out a personal class completion schedule with you. It is the student's responsibility to advise the professor of any changes that will cause course assignments to be late. It is my discretion to either deny or grant an extension based on information that is provided to me.

Students should log into the classroom several times a week and check Forum boards and emails. If the student fails to communicate or stay in contact with the course professor they may be dropped or fail the course. It is strongly suggested to communicate openly and freely with the course professor. If you need anything, communicate with the course professor first to work out any problems.

## Grading

Please see the student handbook to reference the university grading scale.

[Grading](#)

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## Course Outline

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	Writing as Communication: Writing in the Fire Field	<p><b>LO1:</b> Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function, principles, and concepts of fire science as they relate to fire response and protection.</p> <p><b>LO2:</b> Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to resolve typical fire science situations or facts.</p> <p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p>4. Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p> <p>5. Produce a fire science</p>	Located in Week One Lessons	Forum1 with Responses

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		<p>literature review using acceptable scholarly references.</p> <p>6. Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.</p> <p>7. Produce a scholarly academic paper or project using proper citation format.</p>		
2	Enhancing and Improving Outcomes	<p><b>LO1:</b> Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function, principles, and concepts of fire science as they relate to fire response and protection.</p> <p><b>LO2:</b> Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to resolve typical</p>	Located in Week Two Lessons	<p>Forum 2 with Responses</p> <p>Final Project Paper Topic Selection Assignment</p>

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		<p>fire science situations or facts.</p> <p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> 4. Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p>		
3	Selecting Research Sources	<p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p> <p><b>LO6:</b> Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.</p>	Located in Week Three Lessons	Forum Question 3 with Responses
4	Scholarly Article Critiques: Narrowing Your	<b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and	Located in Week Four Lessons	Annotated Bibliography Assignment

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	Choices	<p>techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p> <p><b>LO5:</b> Produce a fire science literature review using acceptable scholarly references.</p> <p><b>LO6:</b> Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.</p>		Forum Assignment Week 4
5	Integrating the Work of Others into your Research.	<p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p> <p><b>LO6:</b> Demonstrate the APA</p>	Located in Week Five Lessons	Forum 5 with Responses

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		citation format in writing assignments.		
6	Addressing Research Information Gaps	<p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p> <p><b>LO6:</b> Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.</p>	Located in Week Six Lessons	Forum Question 6 with Responses
7	Future Research Needs	<p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable</p>	Located in Week Seven Lessons	Forum Question 7 with Responses

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		<p>scholarly reference.</p> <p><b>LO6:</b> Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.</p>		
8	Your academic journey through the Fire Science Program	<p><b>LO3:</b> Apply research methods and techniques used in fire science.</p> <p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the elements that make a source of information an acceptable scholarly reference.</p> <p><b>LO6:</b> Demonstrate the APA citation format in writing assignments.</p> <p><b>LO7:</b> Produce a scholarly academic paper or project using proper citation format.</p>	Located in Week Seven Lessons	<p>Forum Question 8 with Responses</p> <p>Final Project Paper</p>

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## **Policies**

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)  
[Plagiarism Policy](#)  
[Extension Process and Policy](#)  
[Disability Accommodations](#)

### **Writing Expectations**

Written assignments will be free of English and grammar errors. All in-text citations and references will be properly formatted in APA Style 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Only acceptable scholarly references will be used during the class. Please use the criminal justice writing rubrics that are located in the weekly lessons of the class.

### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Style 6<sup>th</sup> edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Style 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Manual.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation, and determine an acceptable resolution. Submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade. It is the class professor who will make the final determination if late work will or will not receive points.

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### **Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

### **Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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## **Online Library**

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

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- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](http://Tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

### **Request a Library Guide for your course** **(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)**

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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## **Turnitin.com**

**Turnitin.com** is a web-based [plagiarism](#) prevention application licensed, for campus use, through the APUS Online Library. The quick submit option lets faculty upload and check suspicious papers, without requiring student to create their own Turnitin.com profiles.

Turnitin.com analyzes electronic submissions of student writing, compares them to the contents of a huge online database, and generates a customized Originality Report. The database used to produce this analysis contains a

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massive collection of documents available on the Internet from both free and commercial sources, as well as the full texts of all other papers that have been previously submitted to Turnitin.com.

Similarity index is based on the amount of matching text to a submitted paper:

Blue = no matching text  
Green = one word to 24% matching  
Yellow = 25 -49% matching text  
Orange = 50-74% matching text  
Red = 75-100% matching text

#### References

- Kinkade, J. (2010). The literature of collecting and other essay. *Libraries & the Cultural Record, 45(3)*, 369-370. Retrieved from ProQuest database.
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