American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Public Service & Health
Fire Science Management
FSMT405
Fire Safety and Risk Regulation
3 Credit Hours
8 Week Course
Prerequisite: None

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Email:

Course Description (Catalog)

This course focuses on citizen and responder fire safety and risk reduction through prevention, response, and recovery phases of fire operations. Topics include risk reduction planning, equipment, communications, and procedure, among others.

Course Scope

This course establishes the foundation of history, knowledge, and processes to assist the Risk Manager or Fire Department Safety Officer achieve his or her goal in preventing firefighter injury and death. The Safety Officer is a position mandated in Hazmat and Terrorism/Homeland Defense responses and it is a good idea for all responses to keep the safety of responders in first place. The safety of the community is also something that the Safety Officer has to keep in mind. While the overall responsibility rests with the Incident Commander, it should be regular practice to place the responsibility for direct safety considerations on a person who will put their full efforts into safety. The course work and discussions will include the study of the leading theories and practices associated with risk management and emergency scene safety.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

- CO-1: Determine how the origins of the modern Safety Officer effects how the job is seen today in the eyes of the firefighter and the general public.
- CO-2: Interpret how the divergence of the role of the Safety Officer in modern fire departments affects the safety of a fire department.
- CO-3: Determine the need for a functional Safety Officer in the fire service.
- CO-4: Examine and explain various safety issues facing the modern fire service.
- CO-5: Determine the need for the investigation of and the application of lessons learned from fire service death and injury investigations.
- CO-6: Discuss the need to continually determine the safety readiness of a fire department and the need to include safety in all training and education programs.

Course Delivery Method

This 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 Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by

the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

Dodson, D.W. (2007). *Fire Department Incident Safety Officer (2nd Ed.).*Albany, NY: Delmar
      Publishers. ISBN 1-4180-0942-3.

Required Readings

The readings that will be used throughout the course are provided in the Resources section of the classroom.

Web Sites

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

Site Name	Web Site URL/Address
Fire Department Safety Officers Association	http://www.fdsoa.org
National Fire Academy	http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/
Everyone Goes Home	http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/

Evaluation Procedures

Readings:

The textbook and several additional readings will be covered throughout this eight week (8) course. As a student, you are expected to read each of the assigned readings and complete the corresponding assignment. The assignments vary from writing papers, creating presentations, and conducting field observations. Throughout the course, you should keep one thought in mind. Earning a college degree requires you to expand your thinking and familiarize you with the literature in the fire service field. Thus, when completing assignments you need to ground your thoughts and summations using the literature so as to demonstrate that you have

conducted the necessary review of the literature and to show others where they may find that material. As this course is about learning the field's literature, personal opinions not based or supported by the published literature are not acceptable. All writing assignments to include Forum assignments require researching the academic literature and utilizing citations and a reference page. Your success in this course is based on your command of the field's literature and your ability to communicate that grasp of the literature to diverse audiences. As this course is designed to familiarize you with the field's literature, there are no wrong or right answers; there are just complete and incomplete answers.

Note: You must ALWAYS comply with the course writing standards, as they are outlined in the course announcements.

Forum Participation:

There are various required discussion Forum assignments. For most Forum assignments you are required to post 3-5 (400 words) paragraphs concerning the assigned readings. The Forum includes extension research reply assignments. The research assignments require you to do additional research concerning the corresponding readings and your peer's postings. Thus, the research assignments requires another 3-5 paragraphs concerning your summations from an independent source that either substantiates or disproves the corresponding author's thesis or your peer's perception of the authors summations. For all Forum postings, a complete post will include adherence to the posted writing standards. The key is to be thorough and use your academic voice to ground your summations using the literature!

Keep in mind that all assignments are designed to sharpen your writing skills and your research skills and as such all writing assignments require providing additional research that support your conclusions. Thus, you will always need to include citations in APA Style (Sixth Edition); however, instead of a References page you may put the bibliographic entries corresponding to your in-text citations at the bottom of each post.

Each Forum assignment will require you to respond to at least one classmate posting in order to earn full credit for the Forum.

Note: You must comply with the course writing standards as they are outlined in the course announcements.

Assignments:

Essay Assignments are designed to sharpen your writing skills and your research skills and as such, all writing assignments require providing additional research that supports your

conclusions. All assignments should be well-written and formatted in APA Style (Sixth Edition). All assignments must have proper citations of any source(s) used and be accompanied by an APA References page.

All assignments must be submitted for grading before they will be considered properly submitted for grading. Submitting for grading is accomplished by:
1. Going into the assignment tab located on the left of your screen in Sakai.
2. Clicking into the pertaining assignment and attaching your submission.
3. Checking "post" button at the bottom of the assignment page.

Thus, you will always need to include citations and a reference page.

You will also have Review Question Group Assignments that are short answer assignments. Please indicate which chapter and question you are answering in your responses.

Mid-Term Quiz and Final Examination:

You will have two examinations – a mid-term and a final examination. Each exam consists of short-answer essay questions. The Mid-Term (Examination 1) will be due in Week 4 and the Final Examination (Examination 2) is due in Week 7. The exams are open-book with no time limits. Please provide references to support your content.

Research Paper:

Complete a research paper based on one (or more) of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program reports or a local incident or incidents. That impacted on the way the fire service "does business." As a guide, consider the following questions. What was the effect of this death on the fire service as a whole? Was the effect permanent? Did it produce legislation? How did it affect your department? Where are legislation and legal cases going in this area? How did it change, or not change your own department? Insure that you review what impact this has had on SOP's, procedures, rules and regulations were in place to prevent this. Was ICS functioning? What changes have been made and what additional ones would you recommend to improve safety procedures in your department?

This project is due by the end of the course. By Week 2, you must send me your topic and proposed approach to it, and you must get my approval before proceeding.

There is no required length for this paper, but I expect the paper to be complete. Typically, a term paper in this course will have 10-15 double-spaced pages in the body of its text not

counting the title page and References page(s). You must include at least 10 sources in addition to sources in the assigned reading.

The term paper will be graded by the provided rubric located in the assignment section of your assignments section (See: term paper assignment for details).

Your term paper must be formatted in conformance to APA Style (Sixth Edition). You can find the APA Style guide in the APUS Online Library. No other formatting and citation style will be accepted.

You must submit your term paper to Turnitin.com to obtain an originality report, and you must upload your Turnitin.com originality report when you submit the assignment. Sakai allows uploading multiple files; see prompt.

Grading Distribution:

20% - Forums
15% - Essay Assignments
20% - Review Question Groups
20% - Examinations
25% - Research Paper
100% Total Points

Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Week	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Assignment
1	Origins of the modern Safety Officer. Role of the Safety Officer in modern fire departments.	CO-1 CO-2	Dodson – Chapters 1, 2, and 3. **NIOSH Publication No.2002-158**: *The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program*	**Week 1 Introduction** **Review Question Group One**
2	Origins of the modern	CO-1	Dodson – Chapters 4 and 5.	**Submit research**

	Safety Officer. Role of the Safety Officer in modern fire departments.	CO-2	**NIOSH Death in the line of duty:** *Volunteer Captain Killed, Two Fire Fighters and Police Officer Injured When Struck by Motor Vehicle at Highway Incident – Minnesota*	paper topic for approval **Review Question Group Two** **Essay 1**
3	The need for a functional Safety Officer in the fire service. Various safety issues in the fire service.	CO-3 CO-4	Dodson – Chapters 6 and 7. **NIOSH Death in the line of duty:** *Live-fire training exercise claims the life of one recruit fire fighter and injures four others – Florida* **NIOSH Publication No. 2005-102**: *Preventing Deaths and Injuries to Fire Fighters during Live-Fire Training in Acquired Structures*	**Review Question Group Three** **Forum 3**
4	The need for a functional Safety Officer in the fire service. Various safety issues in the fire service.	CO-3 CO-4	Dodson – Chapters 8 and 9.	**Review Question Group Four** **Essay 2** **Mid-Term Examination**
5	Continual evaluation of FD safety readiness. Safety in training and education programs.	CO-6	Dodson – Chapters 10 and 11. **NIOSH Death in the line of duty:** *Career captain electrocuted at the scene of a residential structure fire – California*	**Review Question Group Five** **Forum 5**
6	Continual evaluation of FD safety readiness. Safety in training and education programs.	CO-6	Dodson – Chapters 12 and 13.	**Review Question Group Six** **Essay 3**
7	Various safety issues in the fire service.	CO-4 CO-5	Dodson – Chapters 14 and 15.	**Review Question Group**

		CO-6	**NIOSH Death in the line of duty:** *Fire apparatus operator suffers sudden cardiac death after responding to twelve calls – Georgia*	**Seven** **Forum 7** **Final Examination**
	Application of lessons learned from fire service death and injury investigations. Continual evaluation of FD safety readiness. Safety in training and education programs.			
8	Various safety issues in the fire service. Application of lessons learned from fire service death and injury investigations. Continual evaluation of FD safety readiness. Safety in training and education programs.	CO-4 CO-5 CO-6	Dodson – Chapters 16 and 17.	**Review Question Group Eight** **Research Paper**

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
Describe your writing expectations.

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format 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 Format.

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. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

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.

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.
- *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 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.

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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 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

Selected Bibliography