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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

**School of Public Service & Health
Fire Science Management
FSMT410
Fire Regulation, Policy, and Law
3 Credit Hours
8 Week Course
Prerequisite: None**

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Email:

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course focuses on public policy, law, and regulation concerning fire mitigation, response, and recovery. Legal issues and risk are addressed as topics in the course, as are general and specific national, state, and local fire regulations and public law.

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Course Scope

The Fire Regulation course, FSMT410, introduces the student to many areas of fire laws and regulations. This course enables the student to acquire a basic knowledge of the law in each of the specified subject areas that directly or indirectly affect fire services by providing a basic knowledge of the methodology through which to locate, read and comprehend the various statutes and regulations. While to many it would seem that other persons would be doing the job of insuring laws and regulations are followed, it will frequently fall to the fire officer to take first action. That action might very well open you and your department to liability, so it is important that you know what should be done or at least where to look it up. This is especially true in today's volatile and litigious area of personnel law. The main purpose of this course is to introduce you to the laws and regulations that will impact your work. It would be impossible to cover this in detail or completely, so view this as a start rather than the final word on the laws and regulations that affect the fire service.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

- **CO-1:** Identify the origins of modern fire law
- **CO-2:** Describe the evolution of modern fire law.
- **CO-3:** Describe potential criminal actions of firefighters.
- **CO-4:** Examine & identify the various Federal laws related to employment.
- **CO-5:** Describe the lawful duties and responsibilities of the Fire Department
- **CO-6:** Describe the potential negligence actions of firefighters.

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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

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

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Course Resources

Required Course Textbook:

Varone, C.J. (2012). *Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services*. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Cengage Learning.

Additional Readings:

Writing Style Guide: The following guide must be used for all written assignments and can be found in the resources folder.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Supplemental Readings: The Supplemental Readings can be found in the Resource folder.

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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 understand the literature and as such, this course is intended to familiarize you with the literature in fire service concepts. Thus, when completing assignments (posting on discussion board, composing reflection papers) 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 mastering 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

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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 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.

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

All essay 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.

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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.

Quizzes and Final Examination:

You will have two quizzes and a final examination – a mid-term and a final examination. The quizzes and final examination will consist of multiple choice and essay-style questions. The exams are open-book with no time limits. Please provide references to support your content.

Final Research Paper:

INFORMATION ON THE RESEARCH PAPER

Overview: Complete a research paper based on one (or more) of the court cases used as examples in the text that views this case or cases in light of their impact on the way the fire service "does business." As a guide, consider the following questions. 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? What changes need to be made in my department in order to prevent this from harming my own department?

I. The Research/Position Paper:

Subject: The topic of your research paper must be approved by the instructor. Your research paper must reflect your own original thoughts, even though the issues may have been previously presented elsewhere.

Format: The research paper will be 10-15 text pages long using Ariel or Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced throughout. The cover page, bibliography, footnotes / endnotes do not apply as text pages. Include a cover page with the title of the paper and the student's name. The research paper must include a bibliography of at least six academically critical sources. While an encyclopedia may be useful as a starting point, it cannot count as one of the six sources. If there is a question about whether a source meets the academic criteria, contact the instructor. These sources may all be secondary, but primary sources may also be used. The student is encouraged to use as many sources as appropriate. However, a huge bibliography will not compensate for a weak or poorly-constructed paper. Review the "Citation and Reference Style" section of this syllabus.

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Style: The style of the research paper must be in the format of a position paper for your department with the idea that this is to be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to clarify or correct a problem with the issue being addressed. As this is being written for politicians insure that you write clearly and present any options and why you chose the option you did and the legal and regulatory backup for your decision. Transition from one idea to another should be smooth. Do not number your paragraphs or sub-paragraphs and do not break them up. The following criteria are essential for the research paper:

- 1) introduction providing a thesis statement;
- 2) body providing a discussion of central themes supported by properly cited sources; and,
- 3) conclusion drawing together the themes of the paper in a succinct and persuasive manner.

Grading Distribution:

- 20% - Forums
- 20% - Review Question Groups
- 20% - Essay Assignments
- 10% - Quizzes
- 15% - Research Paper
- 15% - Final Exam
- 100% Total Points

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Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Objectives</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	Types and Sources of Laws Courts and Court	CO-1: Identify the origins of	Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services</i> .	Week 1 – Introduction Question Group

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	Systems	modern fire law CO-2: Describe the evolution of modern fire law.	Chapters 1 and 2 Appendix A: Pages 519-532.	One Submit via email to the Instructor your proposal for a final project topic for instructor's approval.
2	Types of Fire Departments Administrative Agencies	CO-2: Describe the evolution of modern fire law. CO-5: Describe the lawful duties and responsibilities of the Fire Department	Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services</i> . Chapters 3 and 4	Question Group Two Essay One
3	Criminal Law Criminal Procedure	CO-2: Describe the evolution of modern fire law. CO-3: Describe potential criminal actions of firefighters. CO-5: Describe the lawful duties and responsibilities of the Fire Department	Varone, - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services</i> . Chapters 5 and 6 Supplemental and Background Reading: Department of Homeland Security. Federal Emergency Management Administration. U. S. Fire Administration. Abandoned Cold Storage Warehouse Multi-Firefighter Fatality Fire (Worcester, MA - December 1999) NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program. Death in the Line of Duty 99-F47. -Dec 03, 1999. Six career fire fighters killed in cold-storage and	Question Group Three Forum Two

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			warehouse building fire – Massachusetts.	
4	Civil Liability Negligence	<p>CO-5: Describe the lawful duties and responsibilities of the Fire Department</p> <p>CO-6: Describe the potential negligence actions of firefighters.</p>	<p>Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services.</i></p> <p>Chapters 7 and 8</p>	<p>Question Group Four</p> <p>Essay Two</p>
5	Immunity from Liability	<p>CO-3: Describe potential criminal actions of firefighters.</p> <p>CO-5: Describe the lawful duties and responsibilities of the Fire Department</p> <p>CO-6: Describe the potential negligence actions of firefighters.</p>	<p>Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services.</i></p> <p>Chapter 9</p>	<p>Question Group Five</p> <p>Forum Three</p> <p>Quiz One</p>
6	Contract Law and Employment Issues Labor Law and Collective Bargaining	<p>CO-3: Describe potential criminal actions of firefighters.</p> <p>CO-4: Examine & identify the various Federal laws related to employment.</p>	<p>Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services.</i></p> <p>Chapters 10 and 11</p>	<p>Question Group Six</p> <p>Forum Six</p> <p>Essay Three</p>

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		CO-6: Describe the potential negligence actions of firefighters.		
7	Employee Rights and Discrimination Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Employment Discrimination	CO-3: Describe potential criminal actions of firefighters. CO-4: Examine & identify the various Federal laws related to employment. CO-6: Describe the potential negligence actions of firefighters.	Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services.</i> Chapters 12 and 13	Question Group Seven Forum Four Quiz Two
8	Fair Labor, Family Medical Leave, Residency and Drug Testing Public Accountability Laws	CO-3: Describe potential criminal actions of firefighters. CO-4: Examine & identify the various Federal laws related to employment. CO-6: Describe the potential negligence actions of firefighters.	Varone - <i>Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services.</i> Chapters 14 and 15	Question Group Eight Final Examination Research Paper

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Policies

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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,

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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.
- **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:

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- 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

Websites (for additional reading, research, and information):

Firefighting News

Main Site: <http://firefightingnews.com/united-states.cfm>

Firehouse Magazine: <http://www.firehouse.com>

National Fire Protection Association

Main Site: <http://www.nfpa.org>

National Fire Sprinkler Association

Main Site: <http://www.nfsa.org>

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National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Main Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage>

Fire Specific: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firehome.html>

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Main Site: <http://www.nist.gov>

Building and Fire Research Library: <http://www.brfl.nist.gov>

United States Fire Administration

Main Site: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/>

Publications: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/publications>

Technical Reports: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/publications/techreps.cfm>

United States Forest Service

Main Site: <http://www.fs.fed.us>

United States House of Representatives Office of the Law Revision Counsel, United States Code

Main Site: <http://uscode.house.gov/>

United States National Records and Archives Administration, Government Printing Office, Code of Federal Regulations

Main Site: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

Women in the Fire Service

Main Site: <http://www.wfsi.org/>

Further USFA Publications (for additional reading, research and information):

- Department of Homeland Security. Federal Emergency Management Agency. U. S. Fire Administration. *Aftermath of Firefighter Fatality Incidents: Preparing for the Worst: Special Report TR-089* available on line at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-089.pdf>
- Department of Homeland Security. Federal Emergency Management Agency. U. S. Fire Administration. *Prevention of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Failures: Special Report TR-088* available on line at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-088.pdf>
- Department of Homeland Security. Federal Emergency Management Agency. U. S. Fire Administration. *Developing Effective Standard Operating Procedures for Fire & EMS Departments FA-197* available on line at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-197-508.pdf>
- Department of Homeland Security. Federal Emergency Management Agency. U. S. Fire Administration. *Firefighter Autopsy Protocol FA-156* available on line at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-156-508.pdf>

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- *Department of Homeland Security. Federal Emergency Management Agency. U. S. Fire Administration. Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2005 FA-306 available on line at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-306-508.pdf>*

The following **codes and standards** developed and maintained by the National Fire Protection Association would be among those of value to the Fire Officer studying this field:

- NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code
- NFPA 70: National Safety
- NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities
- NFPA 101 Life Safety Code
- NFPA 1201: Providing Emergency Services to the Public
- NFPA 1250: Emergency Service Organization Risk Management.
- NFPA 1410: Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations

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