



Broward Community College

Course Outline

STATUS: A

COMMON COURSE NUMBER: FFP 2604

COURSE TITLE: Arson and Fire Investigation

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CONTACT HOURS BREAKDOWN:

Lecture/Discussion 48

Lab 00

Other 00

Contact Hours/Week 3

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: None

A study of the arson and investigation problems examining facts and figures, motives, and the role of fire department in arson suppression. Reviewing chemistry of explosions. Analyzing the juvenile arson problem. Analysis of urban fires, automobile fires, and reports, interrogation and presenting the arson case in the courtroom.

General Education Requirements - Associate of Arts Degree, meets Area(s):
 General Education Requirements - Associate in Science Degree, meets Area(s):

UNIT TITLES:

1. Arson Problems Today
2. Role of the Fire Department in Arson
3. Chemistry of Fire
4. The Fire Search Scene
5. Electrical Fires
6. Rural and Urban Fires
7. Automobile Fires
8. Juvenile Problems
9. Interviews, Notes, Statements, and Reports
10. Presenting the Case of Arson in the Courtroom

I. Course Overview:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to detect accidental and suspicious fires and prosecute, where necessary.

II. Units:

Unit 1. Arson Problems Today

General Outcome:

1.0 The students should be able to discuss arson problems as well as motive for the crime.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 1.1 Analyze facts and figures of the problem.
- 1.2 Discuss the lack of recognition of the problem at all three levels - Federal, State, Local.
- 1.3 Discuss the concerns by the insurance companies, lack of interest at the judicial level.
- 1.4 Describe motives for personal goals, aiding a cause, protesting, and motives by mentally defectives.

Unit 2. Role of the Fire Department in Arson

General Outcome:

2.0 The students should be able to describe the role of the fire department in the arson problem.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 2.1 Show the importance of the firefighters role in arson.
- 2.2 Show how the fire department must be involved enroute to the fire.
- 2.3 Show how the fire department is involved at the scene.
- 2.4 Describe how the fire department should operate during the fire.
- 2.5 Describe how the fire department members should be able to detect the crime on the firegrounds.
- 2.6 Describe fire department procedures after the fire is extinguished.

Unit 3. Chemistry of Fire

General Outcome:

3.0 The students should be able to explain how fires start and propagate.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

3.1 Define terms eg combustion, oxidation, spontaneous heating and its significance to the arson problem.

3.2 Describe the fire triangle, the classes of fire, the methods of heat transfer.

Unit 4. The Fire Search Scene

General Outcome:

4.0 The students should be able to describe methods of searching a fire scene.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 4.1 Describe how to preserve the fire scene, the investigation role when arriving at the fire scene, the fuel supplying the fire, and scientific aid in determining cause of the fire.
- 4.2 Discuss the basis for search authority.
- 4.3 Determine the point of origin of the fire.

Unit 5. Electrical Fires

General Outcome:

5.0 The students should be able to describe the special characteristics of electrical fires.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 5.1 Examine an electrical pane board for transferring.
- 5.2 Describe different fuses and fuse boxes, circuit breakers, wiring in the fire building, overloading of a circuit.
- 5.3 Discuss aluminum wiring.

Unit 6. Rural and Urban Fires

General Outcome:

6.0 The students should be able to contrast fires in cities with those in rural areas.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 6.1 Investigate revenge or spite fires, draw conclusions relating to fires in a series, determine methods used in insurance fraud fires.
- 6.2 Define personnel problems such as training, qualifying as an investigator.
- 6.3 Organize an arson squad and how to alert the public to arson.

Unit 7. Automobile Fires

General Outcome:

7.0 The students should be able to discuss the unique features of automobile arson.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

7.1 Describe motive for automobile arson, methods used in car burning, and the Investigators Salvage Examination.

7.2 Define the role of the insurance adjuster.

Unit 8. Juvenile Problems

General Outcome:

8.0 The students should be able to discuss the factors involved in child arson.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 8.1 Describe the psychological and environmental factors in this problem.
- 8.2 Describe scene trademarks of each group.
- 8.3 Define age groups and their methods.
- 8.4 Describe methods of communication with the juvenile.

Unit 9. Interviews, Notes, Statements, and Reports

General Outcome:

9.0 The students should be able to interview, take notes, and write statements and reports.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 9.1 Make notes and reports.
- 9.2 Take statements from witnesses or suspects.
- 9.3 Describe landmark decisions of the Supreme Court.
- 9.4 Describe the profile of an interrogator.
- 9.5 Define the meaning and importance of interrogation.
- 9.6 Describe procedures for investigation.

Unit 10. Presenting a Case of Arson in the Courtroom

General Outcome:

10.0 The students should be able to present an arson case correctly in the courtroom.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 10.1 Present evidence correctly in courtroom.
- 10.2 Prepare his information chronologically.
- 10.3 Describe admissible and inadmissible evidence.
- 10.4 Describe the importance of the qualification process.
- 10.5 Identify the characteristics of an "expert" witness on the stand.