

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR FIRT 1303
FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION I**

Semester Hours Credit: 3

INSTRUCTOR: _____

OFFICE HOURS: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In-depth study of basic fire and arson investigation practices. Emphasis on fire behavior principles related to fire cause and origin determination.
- B. This course may be applied to the Associates in General Studies degree as an elective course.
- C. This course is occupationally related and serves as an enhancement for careers in Fire Protection and Fire Service.
- D. Prerequisites: None
- E. Alphanumeric coding used throughout the syllabus denotes the integration of SCANS occupational competencies (C) and Fundamental Skills. (F).

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, Fire and Arson Investigation, the student will:

- A. Determine points of origin and the causes of the fire. (C1, C4, C6, C8, C10, C12-C15, C19, F1, F5, F9, F11-F15, F17)
- B. Identify motives of fire setters.(C1, C4, C6, C8, C12-C13, C15, C19, F1, F5, F7, F10, F13-F15)
- C. Describe the elements of the combustion process. (C1, C4, C6, C8, C12-C13, C19, F1, F5, F7, F10, F13, F15)
- D. Describe the judicial requirements for prosecution of arson-related crimes. (C1, C3-C4, C6-C8, C12, C19, F1, F5, F13)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books
- B. Supplementary Reading: (None)

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Your first responsibility is scholarship. The grade you receive will be the result of your efforts, not a gift from the instructor.
- B. This course is designed to require a steady, continuous effort from the student. A crash/cram policy will not result in the best grade possible, and may hamper the student's understanding of the material. In addition to exams, factors such as class participation, initiative, attendance, and individual research may be considered in final grade computation.
- C. From time to time, special library or research assignments may be made to members of the class, either individually or as group projects. You are expected to read all assignments and fulfill our responsibilities to any group assignments.
- D. You are expected to read all assigned material and bring your textbook to class. Keep up to date and informed on assignments, especially after a period of absence.
- E. Good class notes are indispensable for earning a good grade since both the material assigned and discussed will be the basis for examination material. Regular attendance is essential for the same reason.

V. EXAMINATIONS

- A. There will be a minimum of four major examinations as follows:
 - 1. Four-week exam.
 - 2. Mid-term exam.
 - 3. Twelve-week exam.
 - 4. Final exam.

The Mid-term and Final exams will be comprehensive exams, and will include material from all chapters studied to that point. Exams for the on-line 8-week course may be on a different schedule, and will be specified in the on-line course Syllabus.

- B. Unannounced short quizzes may be given covering any material that has been assigned from the beginning of the course.

- C. Occasionally a student will find it unavoidable to be absent from an exam. Only students with excused absences will be permitted to take make-up exams. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for the exam missed. The policy of the college is clearly stated in the catalog. A doctor's excuse is required in case of illness.
- D. The exams will be structured to usually include both subjective and objective type questions.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATION

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>GRADES</u>
900-1000	=A
800- 899	=B
700- 799	=C
600- 699	=D
0- 599	=F

*Incentive points, if given are earned by doing special work on your own initiative, participating in class discussions, completing outside assignments, and having a good attendance record. Points will be deducted for each unexcused absence. Military assignments or unavoidable circumstances will be evaluated upon notification of the instructor.

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- A. **Withdrawal from Course:** It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file a Central Texas College Application for Withdrawal (CTC Form 59). The withdrawal form must be signed by the student. CTC Form 59 will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th. Week of classes during the 16 week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is as follows:

- 10 week session Friday of the 8th. week.
- 8 week session Friday of the 6th. week.
- 5 week session Friday of the 4th. week.

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for sessions of other lengths. The specific last day to withdraw is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin.

Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W", provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of the official withdrawal. Students must file a withdrawal application with the college before they may be considered for withdrawal.

A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of “F” or FN” for nonattendance.

- B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** may be initiated by the instructor when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the Registrar.
- C. **Incomplete Grade:** The College catalog states “An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements for a course...”Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of “I” is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an “F” for the course.
- D. **Cellular Phones and Beepers:** Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.
- E. **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

Topics covered in this course during the semester will come from chapters of the appropriate text. The order and the specific topics covered will be at the discretion of the individual instructor assigned to teach the course.

- A. Chapter 1: Introduction and Chapter 2: The Elementary Chemistry of Combustion.
- B. Chapter 3, The Nature and Behavior of Fire.
- C. Chapter 4, Combustion Properties of Liquid and Gaseous Fuels.
- D. Chapter Five, Combustion Properties of Solid Fuels.

- E. Chapter Six, Sources of Ignition
- F. Chapter Seven, Structure Fires and Their Investigation.
- G. Chapter 8, Grass and Wildland Fires and Their Investigation, and Chapter 9 Automobile, Motor Vehicle, and Ship Fires.
- H. Chapter 10, Electrical Causes of Fire.
- I. Chapter 11, Clothing and Fabric Fires.
- J. Chapter 12, Explosions and Explosive Combustion.
- K. Chapter 13, Chemical Fires and Hazardous Materials.
- L Chapter 14, Laboratory Services.
- M. Chapter 15, Fire-Related Deaths and Injuries.
- N Chapter 16, Arson As A Crime.
- O. Chapter 17, Other Investigative Topics.
- P. Review for Final Examination and Final Examination