

**Master Syllabus
FIRT 1303
Fire and Arson Investigation I**

Instructor: Butch Miller

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 0830-13:00-
Non-teaching weeks or by Appt

Semester: Spring 2012

Synonym: 48733

Course Type: Distance Learn-HYD

Prerequisite: None

Course Description

Basic fire origin and cause course designed for the company officer or responding fire suppression crew.

Required Text

Introduction to Fire Origin and Cause, 3rd Edition by IFSTA, ISBN number: 9780879392529

Course Requirements

1. Completion of course work online in Blackboard
<https://acconline.austincc.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
2. Completion of Midterm and Final Exams at ACC testing center.
3. Attendance of class sessions.
4. Complete a Fire Investigation Report and Presentation
5. Conduct research and present a paper detailing the actions of an assigned arsonist.

Technical Requirements

1. Computer connected to the Internet.
2. Ability to utilize the Internet and email.
3. Ability to use Blackboard,
<https://acconline.austincc.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Instructional Methodology

At the instructor's discretion, lecture, videos, class discussions, class projects, research papers and skills demonstration may be used to instruct the class.

Course Rationale

This course will cover information that will assist fire protection technology students in continuation of higher education goals and their employment in fire protection.

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Course Objectives/Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will:

1. Understand the methods of collection and analysis of fire scene data.
2. Be familiar with determining the origin and cause of a fire.
3. Understand the fire investigator's legal responsibilities related to intentionally set fires.
4. Understand the issues the fire investigator must address to properly and legally document cases related to intentionally set fires.
5. Understand how fire scene data is used to develop fire codes and standards in the interest of reducing fire losses and loss of life due to fire.

Grading Scale:

A = 92-100

B = 85-91

C = 77-84

D = 70-76

F = < 70

Grade Determinants:

Assignments: 30%*

Online Quizzes: 10%

Discussions: 10%

Midterm Exam: 25 %

Final Exam: 25%

Total: 100%

* Assignment 30% can include any combination of assignments, projects, papers, class session participation/performance, etc. as determined by the Instructor

Meeting Schedule:

The FIRT 1303 Class will meet 5 times during the scheduled semester. This will include 4 classroom sessions and one (1) field session.

Module 1- Orientation and First Assignment-Feb 14 or 16, 2012

Module 2- Class and lesson review-March 6 or 8th, 2012

Module 3-Class Lesson and review-April 3 or 5, 2012

Module 4-We will be conducting cause determination during the 4th class. Prepared to be outside in a fire environment for the class period- April 17 or 19, 2012

Module 5- Class Presentations- May 1 or 3, 2012

Hybrid Distance Learning:

Hybrid Distance Learning courses provide greater flexibility, but they also require good time management skills and self-motivation for successful completion. They may not suit every student's needs, expectations or learning style. Students are encouraged to utilize the information available on the ACC [Distance Learning 101](#) website. Course specific distance learning requirements will be covered during the orientation information presented at class session 1.

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Fire Protection Technology Department Web Page:

Students are encouraged to review the department's web page at <http://www.austincc.edu/fireprot/> where valuable information concerning the Fire Protection Technology (FPT) program may be found.

Advising:

Many educational and employment concerns of students may be answered by their course instructor. If additional counseling is needed, students are encouraged to contact the FPT Department Chair for assistance. (Note: The FPT Department Chair is located at the Eastview Campus, building: 9000 room: 9416, Phone 512- 223-5970, E-Mail address: imiller1@austincc.edu)

ACC Course Policies

Attendance/Class Participation

Regular and punctual class and laboratory attendance is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class.

Withdrawal Policy

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the roll should he or she decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is submitted before the Final Withdrawal Date. The student is also strongly encouraged to retain their copy of the withdrawal form for their records.

Students who enroll for the third or subsequent time in a course taken since Fall, 2002, may be charged a higher tuition rate, for that course.

State law permits students to withdraw from no more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career at Texas public colleges or universities. With certain exceptions, all course withdrawals automatically count towards this limit. Details regarding this policy can be found in the ACC college catalog.

Incompletes

An instructor may award a grade of "I" (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for the passing grade in a course. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor but may not be later than the final deadline for withdrawal in the subsequent semester.

Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty

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A student attending ACC assumes responsibility for conduct compatible with the mission of the college as an educational institution. Students have the responsibility to submit coursework that is the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and falsifying documents. Penalties for scholastic dishonesty will depend upon the nature of the violation and may range from lowering a grade on one assignment to an "F" in the course and/or expulsion from the college. See the Student Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Process and other policies at <http://www.austincc.edu/current/needtoknow>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students at the college have the rights accorded by the U.S. Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility to accord the same rights to others in the college community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Opportunity for students to examine and question pertinent data and assumptions of a given discipline, guided by the evidence of scholarly research, is appropriate in a learning environment. This concept is accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility on the part of the student. As willing partners in learning, students must comply with college rules and procedures.

Statement on Students with Disabilities

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are encouraged to request accommodations when they register for courses or at least three weeks before the start of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed.

Students who have received approval for accommodations from OSD for this course must provide the instructor with the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from OSD before accommodations will be provided. Arrangements for academic accommodations can only be made after the instructor receives the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from the student.

Students with approved accommodations are encouraged to submit the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' to the instructor at the beginning of the semester because a reasonable amount of time may be needed to prepare and arrange for the accommodations.

Additional information about the Office for Students with Disabilities is available at <http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/>

Safety Statement

Austin Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these

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can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/ehs>. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/>.

Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be dismissed from the day's activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities.

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Use of ACC email

All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify you of any college related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Instructions for activating an ACCmail account can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/index.php>.

Testing Center Policy

Under certain circumstances, an instructor may have students take an examination in a testing center. Students using the Academic Testing Center must govern themselves according to the Student Guide for Use of ACC Testing Centers and should read the entire guide before going to take the exam. To request an exam, one must have:

- **ACC Photo ID**
- Course Abbreviation (e.g., ENGL)
- Course Number (e.g., 1301)
- Course Synonym (e.g., 10123)
- Course Section (e.g., 005)
- Instructor's Name

Do NOT bring cell phones to the Testing Center. Having your cell phone in the testing room, **regardless of whether it is on or off**, will revoke your testing privileges for the remainder of the semester. ACC Testing Center policies can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/testctr/>

Student And Instructional Services

ACC strives to provide exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. Information on these services and support systems is available at: <http://www.austincc.edu/s4/>

Links to many student services and other information can be found at: <http://www.austincc.edu/current/>

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ACC Learning Labs provide free tutoring services to all ACC students currently enrolled in the course to be tutored. The tutor schedule for each Learning Lab may be found at: <http://www.autincc.edu/tutor/students/tutoring.php>

For help setting up your ACCeID, ACC Gmail, or ACC Blackboard, see a Learning Lab Technician at any ACC Learning Lab.