



**FIRT-1353-031IN (4406)**  
**Legal Aspects of Fire Protection**  
**Time and Days of Course: Online**

**Instructor/Director Information:**

Name: Danny McLerran  
Email: [dmclerran@com.edu](mailto:dmclerran@com.edu)  
Phone: 409-933-8378

**Student Hours**

Office: Monday–Thursday, 0900-1500 by Appointment, PSC 110  
Virtual: By Appointment on Collaborate

**Communicating with Your Instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. The Instructor will respond to messages within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends.

**Announcements:** Upon opening the course, Blackboard will default to the Announcements page. This page will include announcements regarding any changes to the schedule and any other pertinent information regarding the course. It is extremely important that students review announcements every time they enter the course.

**Collaborate:** Students may make an appointment to meet with the Instructor virtually on Collaborate. Collaborate may be utilized to review course materials. Scheduled sessions will be posted in Announcements. Students may access Collaborate from the Course Menu.

**Blackboard Help:** Should students have a difficulty with the Blackboard system, they must utilize the Help with Blackboard link on the Course Menu to obtain assistance, <http://com.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=16028>.

**Required Text:** *Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (2014), PennWell, J. Curtis Varone, ISBN 978-1-59370-347-9. The textbook is available at the COM bookstore, <http://www.combookstore.com/home.aspx>.

**Course Description:** This course studies the rights, duties, liability concerns, and responsibilities of public fire protection agencies and personnel. Topics include basic criminal and civil law, relevant tort law, and state and federal legal systems.

**Student Learner Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Summarize basic criminal and civil law
2. Discuss relevant tort law
3. Describe state and federal legal systems

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed Via Assignment</b>
Summarize basic criminal & civil law	Critical Thinking, Communication	Chapters 1, 5, & 7 Review Questions & Tests
Discuss relevant tort law	Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility	Chapters 8 & 9 Review Questions & Tests Chapters 7, 10 & 16 Discussion Topics & Course Project
Describe state & federal legal systems	Critical Thinking, Communication	Chapter 1 Review Questions & Test

## **Course Requirements**

**Attendance Policy:** Students are required to login to the course at least weekly. Students failing to login to the course and progressively complete assignments may, after notification, be dropped from the course.

**Course Content:** The Course Content folder, which is accessed from the Course Menu on the left of the screen, contains folders for each chapter in the textbook. Each chapter folder contains an Introduction, Power Point Presentations (PDF & MS Power Point), Review Questions, and a Chapter Test. Selected chapters include a Discussion Question. There are separate folders that include the information for Case Brief assignments.

**Introductions:** Each Chapter includes an introduction with a synopsis of the topic, chapter learning objectives, author's/instructor's notes, and a list of cases referenced in the chapter.

**Presentations:** Each chapter contains presentations in PDF and MS Power Point format. In order to view MS Power Point presentations, students must have MS Power Point. The MS Power presentations (.pptx) contain author's/instructor's notes on selected slides that are not shown on the PDF presentations.

**Note:** COM provides Microsoft Office 365 as a free service to students. A link to download the program is in the COM Resources folder on the main menu.

**Review Questions:** Each chapter and Public Service Ethics includes Review Questions, consisting of five short answer questions. An average of grades for Review Questions will account for 20% of the Course Grade.

**Chapter Tests:** Each chapter and Public Service Ethics includes a test, consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Students will be allowed two attempts for each test, with the exception of the Ethics Test. An average of grades for chapter tests will account for 40% of the Course Grade.

**Discussion Questions:** Selected chapters include a graded Discussion Question. Students are expected to research the topic in the text and provide a response, which can be justified from the text. Students are allowed to utilize other sources if they are cited. An average of grades for Discussion Questions will account for 10% of the Course Grade.

**Note:** Responses to the Discussion Questions should not be based on personal opinion alone. Students are of course encouraged to express their opinions; however, the response must indicate a clear knowledge of the topic consistent with the legal principle in the textbook or other cited reference in order to obtain a passing grade for their response.

**Case Briefs:** These assignments involve briefing a fire service related case. Complete instructions are provided with the assignments. **Students must obtain approval from the Instructor for the case they wish to use.** In order to obtain approval of the case, students should email the Instructor with the title of the case and the source where the student is obtaining the information for the case. **Students will not be allowed to brief the same case.** Cases will be approved on a first come, first served basis. An average of Case Briefs will account for 30% of the Course Grade.

**Determination of Grade:** The Final Course Grade is an average based on the following grading criteria. **Note:** Grades for course assignments and the overall course grade are not rounded up.

<b>Grading Criteria</b>		<b>Grade Scale</b>	
Discussion Questions	10%	90-100	A
Review Questions	20%	80-89	B
Chapter Tests	40%	75-79	C
Case Briefs	30%	70-74	D
		0-69	F

**Late/Makeup Policy:** Assignments are due on Mondays at 0800 as per the Course Schedule. Students may submit assignments after the due date and receive a grade. **However, grades for assignments submitted after the due date and time will receive a maximum grade of 75%.**

Students are advised to regularly access the Course Schedule to keep abreast of due dates of assignments. Due dates are listed on each chapter folder on the Course Content page and on each individual assignment.

**Course Outline/Schedule:** Students may complete course materials as quickly as they are able, i.e. students are not restricted from proceeding from one chapter to the next.

Week	Topics	Assignments	Due Date
6/06/22	Chapter 1, Types & Sources of Law Chapter 2, Courts & Court Systems	Introductions Review Questions Chapter Tests	6/13/22, 0800
6/13/22	Chapter 3, Types of Fire Departments Chapter 4, Administrative Agencies	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response	6/20/22, 0800
6/20/22	Chapter 5, Criminal Law Chapter 6, Criminal Procedure	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response	6/27/22, 0800
6/27/22	Chapter 7, Civil Liability Issues Chapter 8, Negligence  <b>Case Brief #1</b>	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response <b>Case Brief #1</b>	7/05/22, 0800
7/05/22	Chapter 9, Immunity & Liability Chapter 10 - Contract Law & Employment Issues	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Responses	7/11/22, 0800
7/11/22	Chapter 11, Labor Law & Collective Bargaining	Review Questions Chapter Test Discussion Response	7/18/22, 0800
7/18/22	Chapter 12 - Employee Rights & Discrimination	Review Questions Chapter Test	7/25/22, 0800
7/25/22	Chapter 13, Sexual Harassment & Other Forms of Employment Discrimination Chapter 14, Fair Labor, FMLA, Residency, Drug Testing, Electronic Monitoring, Digital Imagery, Social Networking <b>Case Brief #2</b>	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response <b>Case Brief #2</b>	8/01/22, 0800
8/01/22	Chapter 15, Public Accountability Laws Public Service Ethics Chapter 16 - EMS Law	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response	8/01/22, 0800
8/08/22	Ethics Assignments	Ethics Assignments Review Questions Ethics Test	8/11/22, 0800
<b>All Assignments Due No Later Than Thursday, 8/11/22, 0800.</b>			

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions, concerns, or issues about any aspect of this course, please contact the Lead Instructor, using the contact information previously provided. If after discussing your concern with the instructor, you continue to have questions, request a meeting through the Lead Instructor with the Director. If after your meeting with the Director, you still have questions, request a meeting through the Director with Dr. R. E. Davis, Public Service Careers Department Chair 409-933-8313 or rdavis29@com.edu.

### **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <[https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week

session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 2.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.