



**FIRT-1353-031IN (1526)
Legal Aspects of Fire Protection
Course Syllabus, Summer 2021**

Instructor: Danny McLerran, dmclerran@com.edu, 409-933-8378

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.

Office Hours by Appointment: Virtually on Collaborate or in person in PSC 110.

Announcements: Upon opening the course, Blackboard will default to the Announcements page. This page will include announcements regarding any changes to the schedule, reminders of skills labs, major exams, TCFP course activities, 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 curriculum, skill assignments, and exams. 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, 3rd 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>.

Textbook Purchasing Agreement: 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.

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

Course Requirements: 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.

Course 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. However, specific due dates are assigned to Discussion Questions, Review Questions, Chapter Tests, and the Case Briefs. These materials will generally be due on Mondays at 0800 according to the Course Schedule in the Syllabus.

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

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 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.

Late/Makeup Policy: Students may submit assignments and tests after the due date. **However, the maximum grade that may be received for a late assignment or test is 75%.**

Grading Criteria

Discussion Questions	10%
Review Questions	20%
Chapter Tests	40%
Case Briefs	30%

Grade Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
75-79	C
70-74	D
0-69	F

Course Outline/Schedule

Week	Topics	Assignments	Due Date
6/07/21	Chapter 1, Types & Sources of Law Chapter 2, Courts & Court Systems	Introductions Review Questions Chapter Tests	6/14/21, 0800
6/14/21	Chapter 3, Types of Fire Departments Chapter 4, Administrative Agencies	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response	6/21/21, 0800
6/21/21	Chapter 5, Criminal Law Chapter 6, Criminal Procedure	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response	6/28/21, 0800
6/28/21	Chapter 7, Civil Liability Issues Chapter 8, Negligence Case Brief #1	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response Case Brief #1	7/06/21, 0800
7/06/21	Chapter 9, Immunity & Liability Chapter 10 - Contract Law & Employment Issues	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Responses	7/12/21, 0800
7/12/21	Chapter 11, Labor Law & Collective Bargaining	Review Questions Chapter Test Discussion Response	7/19/21, 0800
7/19/21	Chapter 12 - Employee Rights & Discrimination	Review Questions Chapter Test	7/26/21, 0800
7/26/21	Chapter 13, Sexual Harassment & Other Forms of Employment Discrimination Chapter 14, Fair Labor, FMLA, Residency, Drug Testing, Electronic Monitoring, Digital Imagery, Social Networking Case Brief #2	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response Case Brief #2	8/02/21, 0800
8/02/21	Chapter 15, Public Accountability Laws Public Service Ethics Chapter 16 - EMS Law	Review Questions Chapter Tests Discussion Response	8/09/21, 0800
8/09/21	Ethics Assignments	Ethics Assignments Review Questions Ethics Test	8/12/21, 0800
All Assignments Due No Later Than 8/12/21, 0800.			

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to login to the course at least weekly and progressively complete assignments.

Withdrawal Policy: Failure to attend classes or log into the online class will **NOT** constitute an official or automatic withdrawal. It is the student's responsibility to acquire and complete the drop form when the student has decided to drop the class. Any student who fails to withdraw will receive a grade of "F" for the class.

Success Tips for Students: Study Skills for Highly Successful Students:
<https://www.educationcorner.com/study-skills.html>

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact [insert name here) at 409-933-xxxx. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center. <http://www.com.edu/student-services/counseling.php>

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention is 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.

Classroom Conduct Policy: College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php>. Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty 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 disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action. Access the following link about ways to avoid plagiarism: <http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

Concerns/Questions Statement: If you have any questions, concerns, or issues about any aspect of this course, please contact the Instructor, using the contact information previously provided. If after discussing your concern with the Instructor, you continue to have questions, request a meeting the Department Chair, Carla Boone, Public Service Careers Department Chair at 409-933-8616 or CBoone@com.edu.

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.

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 only permitted to withdraw six times during their college career by State law. The last day to withdraw for 16-week courses is November 23rd.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of failure due to a lack of attendance, as determined by the instructor. The FN 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 FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

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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 Carla Boone, Public Service Careers Department Chair at 409-933-8616 or CBoone@com.edu.

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>. *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

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college career. 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. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

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

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.. Students are required to watch a training [video](#), complete the [self-screening](#), and acknowledge the safety guidance at: www.com.edu/selfscreen. In addition, students, faculty, and staff must perform a [self-screening](#) prior to each campus visit. Finally, students, faculty, or staff which have had symptoms of COVID-19, received a positive test for COVID-19, or have had close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19 must complete the [self-report tool](#).