

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Title:	FT-9 Fire Investigation
Instructor:	Norcliff Wiley, Deputy Fire Chief--Retired Salinas Fire Department
Unit Credits:	3 Semester Units
Transfer Credit:	CSU
Description:	Explores causes and types of fire, related laws, recognition and preservation of evidence, and introduces witness and suspect interviews as well as arrest, detention, and court procedures.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the differences between accidental and suspicious fires.
- Justify the method of recognition and preservation of evidence and explain the cause(s) of fires.
- Identify, collect, and synthesize evidence and the procedures to present evidence in court.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the cause(s) of fires.
- Identify the differences between accidental, suspicious, and incendiary types of fires.
- Identify arson-related laws.
- Compare and contrast types of incendiary fires.
- Explain the procedures involved in the recognition and preservation of evidence.
- Identify techniques involved with interviewing witnesses and suspects.
- Compare and contrast arrest and detention.
- Identify court procedures.

### CONTENT:

- Cause of fires.
- Laws relating to fire investigation.
- Determining point of origin.
- Identification, collection, and preservation of evidence.
- Fire setters: motives and methods.
- Interviewing witnesses and suspects.
- Court procedures.

## METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (ONLINE):

- **Read** appropriate Chapter in Textbook.
- **Review** PowerPoint Presentation for each session.
- **Complete** Textbook Chapter Review Questions.
- **Select and Post** a Response to one Textbook Chapter Review Question each week.
- **Complete & Submit** online quiz for each weekly session.

## EVALUATION:

Students' grade will be based on required Assignments, Quizzes & Exams, including:

- 1. Weekly Discussion Topic Responses**
- 2. Completion of the Weekly online quizzes.**
- 3. Midterm and Final Examination**

**ATTENDANCE/ONLINE PARTICIPATION:** This online course will also require active participation each week. Required weekly discussions, written assignments, quizzes, as well as the midterm and final exam. Your online instructional sessions require that you not miss more than three weekly sessions.

- Your attendance each week will be **solely** credited upon providing a response to each week's Discussion Topic. Not participating in weekly Discussion Topics for four sessions will result in being dropped from the course.

## TEXT: (REQUIRED)

*Fire Investigator*, 2nd Edition  
IFSTA Publications  
ISBN: 978-0-87939-383-0

## HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:

You will need regular access to a computer and one of the following browsers:

- Goggle Chrome
- Mozilla Firefox
- Safari
- Brave

As well the free software from: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

- Adobe Reader

FT 9  
ONLINE

FIRE INVESTIGATION  
FALL 2024

Instructor: Norcliff Wiley  
Phone #: 760-6861  
Email: [nowiley@cabrillo.edu](mailto:nowiley@cabrillo.edu)

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Compare and contrast the differences between accidental and suspicious fires.
2. Justify the method of recognition and preservation of evidence and explain the cause(s) of fires.
3. Identify, collect, and synthesize evidence and the procedures to present evidence in court.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Week#</u>	<u>Topics</u>
8/26/24	1	Orientation and Introduction ORGANIZATION, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITY
9/02/24	2	SAFETY
9/09/24	3	FIRE DYNAMICS: BEHAVIOR, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS
9/16/24	4	EXPLOSION DYNAMICS
9/23/24	5	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND THE FIRE INVESTIGATOR & BUILDING SERVICES
9/30/24	6	BASIC ELECTRICITY FOR THE FIRE INVESTIGATOR
10/07/24	7	INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS
10/14/24	8	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
10/21/24	9	SCENE SECURITY & SCENE DOCUMENTATION
11/04/24	10	EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION
11/11/24	11	INTERVIEWS
11/18/24	12	FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENE EXAMINATION
11/25/24	13	AREA OF ORIGIN DETERMINATION
12/02/24	14	DEBRIS EXAMINATION, REMOVAL, AND RECONSTRUCTION
12/09/24	15	IGNITION SOURCE, IGNITION SEQUENCE, & CAUSE DETERMINATION
12/09-14/24		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

Students needing accommodations should inform the instructor. As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations are provided to insure equal access for students with verified disabilities.

To determine if you qualify or need assistance with an accommodation, please contact ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT CENTER (Formerly DSPS), Room 1073, (831) 479-6220.