



South Portland, Maine 04106

Fire Science Department

Title: Fire in American Society (FIAS)

Catalog Number: FIRE 140

Credit Hours: 3

Total Contact Hours: 45

Methods: Lecture/Tours/Projects/Reports

Instructor(s): Robert Gayton

Course Times/Location – Location: HH Sem

Contact Information: rgayton205@gmail.com

rgayton@smccme.edu

WEDS 1:30-4:15

(207) 576-5380

1-20-2016 through 5-11-16

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course traces the history of fire in America commencing with the first English colonists in 1607 Jamestown, and ending with the fire related news of 2015. The evolution of firefighting methods are addressed with the numerous fatal fires which influenced improved codes and laws, written to make life safer for Americans. Topics will provide a “snapshot of the times” in relation to America’s innovation, progress, politics, and historical events. A combination of classroom lecture, field trips to actual sites of historical importance, and student involvement in the historical milestones provided by the Portland Fire Museum, emphasize the vital mission of the preservation of human life and property.

Fire Science Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of an associate degree in Fire Science from Southern Maine Community College will prepare students to:

- 1) Understand and recognize the evolution of methods of protecting against and subduing of fire.
- 2) Understand and recognize the requirement for codes and laws to prevent fire.
- 3) Understand and recognize the roll each firefighter in the continued effort to envision improved methods to preserve human life and property.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to;

- 1) Relate the history of the fire service to current and future fire protection challenges.
- 2) Describe the roles of the modern day firefighter and how they specifically relate and apply to your own community.
- 3) Explain a historical fire in context and how its outcome changed modern fire and life safety code.
- 4) Develop a plan for meeting the Fire Science learning outcomes.
- 5) Describe a historical fire, learned in this course, and address the “common problems” that led to disaster.

Course Objectives

1. Identify at least three uses of fire by native Americans
2. Identify at least three uses of fire by colonial settlers
3. Describe an early industrial use of fire and how, if uncontrolled, it could bring disaster.

4. Discuss in depth the concept of “risk vs. benefit” as applied to fire prevention.
5. Describe the concept of fire insurance as introduced by Benjamin Franklin.
6. Describe the rationale for purchasing fire insurance to cover losses.
7. Describe the method of organization for fire fighting in colonial America.
8. Describe the economic and social influences that initiated the transition from volunteer to paid fire departments.
9. Identify two technological advances in fire prevention or protection in the 19th century.
10. Identify two technological advances in fire prevention or protection in the 20th century.
11. Discuss a major or significant fire of the 20th century and describe the impact it had on fire or building codes.
12. Discuss the significance and impact of “Wildland/Urban interface” fires.
13. Discuss the impact of contemporary society and the economic realities that are contributing to the decline of the volunteer fire service.
14. Discuss three current trends in municipal fire protection.

Topical Outline

(See attached schedule/topical outline)

Course Policies

Students shall show respect at all times to other students, instructor and guests.

Students shall take copious notes. Quizzes and final exams will be weighted on accurate notes.

Students may receive extra credit assignments at discretion of the instructor.

Students are permitted to use laptops in class so long as they remain on task with FIAS.

Handheld electronic devices should remain on silent/vibrate and be out of sight unless previously discussed with instructor.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete pre-class assignments, attend all classes and take notes. Students will be expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and group assignments. There are several written presentations which will be developed and presented by each student. Online quizzes and in-class quizzes and tests will also be given.

Student Evaluation and Grading

Attendance, participation + current events/reflections:	10%
Quizzes:	20%
Writing Projects/Assignments:	25%
Project & Presentation:	25%
Final exam:	20%

Letter Grade:

SMCC letter grades are based on the following percentages:

93-100 = A	90-92 = A-	87-89 = B+	83-86 = B
80-82 = B-	77-79 = C+	73-76 = C	70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+	63-66 = D	60-62 = D-	0-59 = F

Required Text

-Fire Duty by Don Whitney

Student Classroom Behavior & Expectations

- ***Students are expected to attend all classes. You are expected to arrive to class on time, before it begins.*** Attendance will be recorded and will affect the class participation grade. SMCC requires instructors to report the names of students to the registrar's office who stop attending class. For the purpose of this class, students will be reported as no longer attending after two consecutive – or a total of three -- absences from the class. A report of last date of attendance to the registrar's office results in a grade of Administrative Failure (AF) being recorded for the student. FMI, please refer to the SMCC Student Handbook. Students are expected to notify the instructor, in advance, concerning absences. Students are responsible for all material – and meeting deadlines – regardless of absences.
- ***Students are expected to stay engaged in class.*** Stay on task. Please do not be distracted by personal discussions, electronic devices, etc. during class.
- ***Students are expected to submit original work unless other sources are clearly credited.*** Students are expected to equitably share the load in group work. Cheating will not be tolerated. Student's found cheating may result in penalizing actions up to and including a failing grade in class following policies in the student code of conduct.
- ***Students are expected to prepare for class by completing all assignments.*** Readings and homework provide the foundation for class lectures, discussions and projects. Weekly quizzes will be given over the assigned readings.
- ***Students are expected to take notes during class.*** Notes and handouts should be organized in a binder. This is a class requirement and will be graded.
- ***Students are expected to respect the classroom, fellow students and faculty.*** Listen thoughtfully when others speak, even if you disagree with what they are saying. Challenge your own notions. Defend your positions with facts.
- ***Students are expected to actively participate and think critically.*** This is necessary for knowledge sharing and to get the most from practice/application opportunities.
- ***Students are expected to set pagers, or cell phones on vibrate*** during class time.
- ***Students are expected to not use tobacco of any kind in the classroom.*** Food and drinks should be used respectfully of others and the facility.
- ***Students are permitted to wear hats*** in class so long as they are not a distraction or offensive/obscene.
- ***Students will be held accountable.*** ... for working hard, staying engaged, persisting, asking for help as needed (earlier, rather than later), taking responsibility, meeting course expectations and mastering course materials.

Homework and Written Assignments

Late assignments (papers, take-home quizzes, etc.) will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero unless prior authorization is given by the instructor. All work is due at the start of the class period in which the assignment is due. If you are not in class the day homework is due, it is your responsibility to email it to the instructor prior to the start of class. All written assignments (other than your class notes) are to be typed neatly using MSWord, RTF or PDF file format.

Current Events:

Students shall be expected to review current events on a weekly basis and bring in a typed, 1 page report, every week on current events relating to the fire service. The current event topic can be state, local, or national but **MUST** be pertaining to the American fire service. Students will begin the class every afternoon with a brief presentation on their current event topic and explain how it pertains to the American fire service. Topics may include fires, firefighter death/injury, new firefighting technology etc. **STUDENTS MUST CITE SOURCE(S).**

Attendance, Participation:

Because this class is interactive, each student's class attendance, participation will be graded by the instructor. Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss the topic for the day and to contribute positively to discussions and other class activities. The participation + online reflections will be graded based on the quality of participation, ideas, insights, and learned outcome demonstrations, not just the quantity.

Tardiness and Leaving Class Early

Tardiness and leaving class early will be subject to daily point deduction and will impact your final course grade. Missing a portion of class will be measured as ½ an absence. (See Classroom Behavior & Expectations). If you are not going to be in class or late to class, please email instructor or let him/her know ASAP.

Early Warning Letters: After students have completed 5 weeks of the course, early warning letters will be sent home to students with unsatisfactory performance. Unsatisfactory performance is determined by a combination of grades and attendance.

End-of-Course Evaluation

In order to gain access to final course grades, students must complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal site. Students can access the course evaluation report beginning two weeks before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs 24 hours after the last day of classes each semester. Instructors will announce when the online course evaluation is available. Course evaluations are essential to instructor and course improvement.

SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy

Students can print 150 pages per semester free of charge. If you print over 150 pages, you will be charged 10 cents per page to your student billing account for tuition and fees.

Leftover pages from each semester will not be rolled over to the following semester.

The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all public printers (i.e. those in general access labs, library printers, the Academic Achievement Center, Noisy Lounge and technology labs). Each time you log-in to the system, the print station displays the remaining print quota. Once the printing quota has been exceeded, users will be charged \$ 0.10 per page or \$.05 per side if the printer prints on both sides on their student accounts on a monthly basis. Color printouts will be charged at 11 page units. This means each color printout will count as 11 pages toward the quota and will cost \$1.10.

Add-Drop Policy

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance. **Add/drop deadline for spring, 2015 is 1/20/15 @ 5 PM.**

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the fall and spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.

Plagiarism Statement

Students are responsible for adherence to ethical academic standards. Cheating is a serious offense, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member will refer the matter to the College's Disciplinary Officer and appropriate action will be taken under the Student

Code of Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Students have the right to appeal these actions to the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the SMCC Student Code of Conduct.

Inclement Weather

If any classes have to be canceled due to inclement weather, tests or student presentations will be rescheduled for the next class period and assignments will be collected at the next class period. School closure info is available at www.smccme.edu , by calling 741-5500 or tune into any local TV station.

ADA Syllabus Statement

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 207-741-5798.

If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the disability services coordinator, Mark Krogman, who can be reached at 741-5629. Documentation must be supplied to your instructor before accommodations can be given. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number.

SEE STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR OTHER ACADEMIC POLICIES