

Portland Community College
Course Syllabus
FP212 FIRE INVESTIGATION
(Cause and Determination)
Fall Term 2011
CRN 42371

COURSE DATES

Portland Community College, Cascade Campus Public Service Education Building, Room 100
909 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon, October 29, and November 5, 12, 19, 2011. The
course will be conducted from 0830-1650 hours each day.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines basic fire investigation practices for determining the origin and causes of
common types of fires. Topics will include fire behavior, scene investigation/reconstruction,
documentation, evidence collection & preservation, basic interviewing, death investigations and
legal aspects.

INSTRUCTOR

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TEXT

Kirk's Fire Investigation John D. DeHaan and David J. Icov Brady, Seventh Edition/2012 ISBN
0-13-508263-3

Additional recommended reading: NOT MANDATORY

Scientific Protocols for Fire Investigation (Protocols in Forensic Science)
Feb 2006 ISBN-13: 9780849320828

Fire Cause Determination, IFSTA, First Edition/1994 ISBN 0-87939-048-4

Fire Investigation, IFSTA, First Edition/2000 ISBN 0-87939-182-0

NFPA 921 2011 Edition (This document can be viewed online at NFPA through PCC Library
connection)

GRADES

Attendance	20%	(100 max)	450-500	=	A
Assignment #1	20%	(100 max.)	400-449	=	B
Assignment #2	20%	(100 max.)	350-399	=	C
Midterm Exam	20%	(100 max.)	300-349	=	D
Final Exam	20%	(100 max.)	0 to 299	=	F

PCC Grading Guidelines: <http://www.pcc.edu/resources/academic/standards-practices/AcademicStandardsandPractices-GradingGuidelines.html>

Add/drop/withdraw deadlines for term:

<http://www.pcc.edu/registration/dropping.html>

Instructional ADA statement (e.g. "Students who have a documented disability and require a classroom adjustment or accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities www.pcc.edu/resources/disability and provide the OSD Approved Academic Accommodation to the Instructor.")

Code of Student Conduct www.pcc.edu/about/policy/student-rights/student-rights.pdf#code-of-student-conduct

Academic Integrity Policy www.pcc.edu/about/policy/student-rights/student-rights.pdf#academic-integrity

COURSE POLICIES

- This classroom course is designed for students who desire to learn about basic fire investigation. As such the student should have a good basic understanding of Fire Behavior, Building Construction and Fire Fighting Tactics. This course requires more student participation in the classroom than maybe other courses they have taken in the past.
- Assignment #1 and #2 must be completed on time. Late assignments will be graded down 5 points for each day the assignment is not received.
- **Students are required to have a valid email address. This also means an email address that the student routinely reads email from. The preferred email address is your pcc.edu. You may want to go into MYPCC and forward your pcc.edu email address to your home email this way you don't miss any correspondence.**

COURSE OUTLINE

October 29, 2011	Introduction Review course Assignment #1 and #2 requirements Module 1 How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation (CFITrainer.net) Module 2 The Scientific Method 2009 Update (CFITrainer.net) Module 3A Fire Investigator Scene Safety (CFITrainer.net) Module 3B Electrical Safety (CFITrainer.net) Module 4 Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction (CFITrainer.net) Module 5 Building Fuel Gas Systems Module 6 Burn Patterns Module 7 Postflashover Fires (CFITrainer.net)
November 5, 2011	Module 8 Documenting the Event (CFITrainer.net) Module 9 Fire Related Human Behavior Module 10 Juvenile Fire Setters Mid-Term Exam
November 12, 2011	Module 11 Legal Considerations (CFITrainer.net) Module 12 Sources of Information Module 13 Ignition Sources Module 14 Initial Procedures at the Scene Module 15 Scene Examination
November 19, 2011	Module 16 – Physical Evidence Module 17 - Death Investigations Final Exam

ASSIGNMENT #1 (Due November 5, 2011)

Assignment requirements are 3-5 pages in length. Papers must be double spaced typed using 12 point font. **Answer all of the questions for full credit. Late papers will lose 5 points for each day that it is not turned in.**

- Describe the "fire problem" (DeHaan, Seventh Edition pg. 4) and how it relates to analytical fire investigation.
- Why do you agree or disagree with the description in the text?
- Describe the "Scientific Method" and how it relates to analytical fire investigation.
- How does fire behavior and chemistry relate to fire investigations?

ASSIGNMENT #2 (Due November 19, 2011)

General Fire Investigation report requirements are 3-5 pages in length. Papers should be typed using 12 point font. A sample form is below and will be made available to the students through their email. **NOTE:** A criminal fire that has not been adjudicated will not be accepted. **Late papers will lose 5 points for each day that it is not turned in.**

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Fire Investigation Report

2011-

Date of Occurrence:

Date and Time Reported:

Alarm time:

Location:

Summary:

The cause of the fire that occurred

Mentioned:

Public Safety Personnel:

Narrative:

On

Findings:

It is the conclusion of this fire investigator that the

Evidence Seized:

Supplementary Information:

Connected Cases:

Example WCSO 11-506299

Disposition:

This case is (closed, open pending further investigation, open pending adjudication)

Enclosures: (examples)

Photo Log

Photo Contact Sheet

Permission for Fire Investigation

Students Name

FIRE INVESTIGATION PHOTO LOG

CASE NUMBER:

LOCATION:

DATE OF PHOTOS:

PHOTOGRAPHER:

PHOTO NO.

SUBJECT MATTER

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