

# SYLLABUS

Course: Political and Legal Foundations of Fire Protection

COURSE & SECTION: FES 3004

CREDIT HOURS: 3

SESSION:

\*\* ON-LINE

\*\* THERE WILL BE TIMES SCHEDULED FOR ON-LINE MEETINGS.

**INSTRUCTOR:** John Murphy



**John K. Murphy, JD, M. S., PA-C, EFO** is a practicing attorney since 2002 licensed in Washington State. Prior to his work as an attorney, Mr. Murphy completed a 32 year career in the fire service retiring as a Deputy Fire Chief for Eastside Fire & Rescue (Issaquah WA) and Fire Chief of the City of Sammamish (WA). In his fire service career, he rose in the ranks from a firefighter/paramedic to Chief Officer with extensive experience in operational command, serving as Chief of Training and Health and Safety Officer. Chief Murphy was responsible for developing fire training curriculum development and implementation of training programs, organization development, management and training of executive level managers, and health and safety programs. He is a subject matter expert on fire operations, personnel management and other issues affecting the fire service serving as an expert witness on over fifty cases nationwide and writes extensively on legal issues affecting fire and emergency services.

He has been instrumental in the reorganization of small to medium sized businesses and public safety organizations; has experience in organizational development and management, and consulting with and training private and public entities in effective organizational management, strategic planning, personnel strategies and goal setting.

Mr. Murphy received a Juris Doctor from Seattle University School of Law, a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in Health Education from Central Washington University and graduated from the University of Utah's School of Medicine's Physicians Assistant Program. He is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, King County Bar Association, and the U.S. District Court/Western Division. He served in the US Navy as a hospital corpsman.

He is also a member of several fire service organizations promoting excellence in leadership, is the legal counsel for the International Association of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI); a national instructor on fire service legal and health issues; a subject matter expert (SME) on fire and EMS litigation; a writer and podcast member for Fire Engineering Magazine on fire service legal issues and curator of the Fire Engineering Policy Bank. Mr. Murphy authored the book on *Legal, Political and Regulatory Environment for Emergency Medical Services* and co-authored the book *Cooling the Flames: Communication, Control and De-escalation of Mentally Ill and Aggressive Patients*.

**OFFICE HOURS:** 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday Pacific Standard Time (PST)

**\*\*COURSE WEBSITE:** <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

**\*\* COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:** There is a General Discussion tab that can be used, or send me an email through the course email. *Urgent messages can be sent to my email directly at [j.k.murphylaw911@gmail.com](mailto:j.k.murphylaw911@gmail.com)*

**REQUIRED TEXT FOR THIS COURSE:**

Fire Service Law, Second Edition (2017); Larry Bennett, Brady Publishing (Pearson) ISBN: 1478633972. (Can rent or purchase this book on Amazon)

Fire Protection Handbook, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition (2008); Volumes I and II, Arthur E. Cote (Editor), National Fire Protection Association ISBN: 9780877657583 (may be found at any local fire department). (Suggestion – find these books at your local fire department)

**\*\*ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** *Use resources on the course site under the Resource tab*

**\*\*COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the legal aspects of the fire service and the political and social impacts of legal issues. This course includes a review of the American legal system and in-depth coverage of legal and political issues involving employment and personnel matters, administrative and operational matters, planning and code enforcement, and legislative and political processes with regard to the fire service.

**\*\*PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:** *None*

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:** *This course provides an understanding of the legal and political system as it pertains to the fire service that will be instrumental in your future with the fire service or other governmental entity.*

**COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course, students will:

1. Identify potential legal and political issues in fire and emergency services.
2. Describe legal lessons learned from recent cases, and identify best practices in the fire service to avoid legal liability.
3. Analyze and apply legal rules and political issues to manage risk.
4. Formulate political and legal conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis.
5. Locate and apply recent legal and legislative online resources.

**\*\* HOW THIS COURSE RELATES TO THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES IN THE FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM:** *As many aspects of Fire and Emergency Services are intertwined with the law, the student shall demonstrate knowledge and legal application of safety, health and environmental regulations at state and federal levels. The student shall also demonstrate strong verbal and written communication skills for leadership in fire and emergency services.*

**\*\*TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** *I am looking for students to demonstrate a working knowledge of the subject. You need to be creative when you complete your assignments but maintain a professional appearance of your work. Your work needs to be complete and in such a manner that someone can pick up your document and understand what you are trying to convey. And most of all, your work needs to be supported with research and cited in properly in APA format.*

**\*\*INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** *The course is designed for individual and group interactivity. It is important to post and respond to discussion questions in the course within the time frame allotted. This provides a learning environment by networking with other students in the course. The assignments are individual base to give you the opportunity to do a variety of activities, in many cases, similar to what you will be doing in role as a leader in the emergency services profession.*

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** *The course is designed in module format. You should check the site at least once a week. You are required to complete the assignments including discussion questions within the time period designated on the module. There will be*

meetings set up throughout the course. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

**\*\*QUIZ/EXAM POLICY:** *There is a final project for this course. There are no exams or quizzes.*

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** *You must contact me if you are going to be late on any assignment to receive credit.*

**\*\*ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** *All assignments have a due date. Please be sure to check the date and time it is due in each module.*

**\*\*COURSE TECHNOLOGY:** *Class meetings will require a web camera and mic/audio. If you are not able to use a web camera you will need to at least provide audio/mic, you can call in on a phone also.*

#### **\*\* UF'S HONESTY POLICY**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of in this class.

#### **UF POLICIES:**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

**\*\*NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior] <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

## GETTING HELP:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

\*\* Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1	Introduction – online post Read Syllabus and review course content Nature of Law Assign Module One – Discussion and Assignment Assign Final Project
Week 2	Types of Law Module One Discussion and Assignment due
Week 3	Institutions of Law Assign Module Two – Discussion and Assignment
Week 4	Civil Trials Module Two discussion and assignment due
Week 5	Criminal Trials Assign Module Three discussion and assignment
Week 6	Warrants and Alternatives to Trials Module Three discussion and assignment due
Week 7	Constitutional Law--Employment and Personnel Issues Assign Module Four discussion and assignment
Week 8	Federal Law--Employment and Personnel Issues Module Four discussion and assignment due
Week 9	State Law--Employment and Personnel Issues Assign Module Five discussion and assignment
Week 10	Local Law--Employment and Personnel Issues Module Five discussion and assignment due
Week 11	Operational and Managerial Issues Assign Module Six discussion and assignment

Week 12	The Fire Official as Rule-Maker and Enforcer Module Six discussion and assignment due
Week 13	Politics in Action Assign Module Seven discussion and assignment
Week 14	Politics and Budgeting Module Seven discussion and assignment due
Week 15	Final Project due

### GRADING POLICIES:

*The grade is based on a point system. You divide the total number of earned points into the total amount of points available to determine your grade. A grading rubric for the final project is under the Resource Tab on the course.*

Assignment	Points or percentage
Grading Discussion Participation – 15 points each discussion	105 points
Homework Assignments – points each assignment	105 points
Final Project - comprehensive and applied	100 points
<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>310 points</b>

See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> regarding current UF grading policies.

### GRADING SCALE

A = 93.0 to 100%    C = 73.0 to 76.9  
A- = 90.0 to 92.9    C- = 70.0 to 72.9  
B+ = 87.0 to 89.9    D+ = 67.0 to 69.9

B = 83.0 to 86.9    D = 63.0 to 66.9  
B- = 80.0 to 82.9    D- = 60.0 to 62.9  
C+ = 77.0 to 79.9    F = below 60

## EVALUATION PROCESS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.