FES 4244: LEGAL, POLITICAL, AND REGULATORY IN EMS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contact Information: Professor John K. Murphy

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This course provides the foundations of the legal system and how if effects the EMS manager. It is one of the six core courses for the FESHE model curriculum in EMS management.

The course and text book provide an overview of those regulatory issues and how an EMS leader; manager, and supervisor can work within those guidelines; and how they can influence developing rules and regulations affecting EMS services today. EMS leaders, managers, and supervisors must maneuver daily in a labyrinth of rules and regulations at the state and federal levels. Some of these regulations have been in place since the beginning of EMS, and over the years hundreds of new rules and regulations have affected EMS delivery.

Credit Hours: 3

Textbook Required:

Murphy, J. (2015). *Legal, Political & Regulatory Environment in EMS*. Brady Publishing.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: None

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the legal system that governs EMS.
2. Explain the legal considerations of operating an EMS system, including:
   a. safety considerations
   b. hiring
   c. staffing
   d. compensation and benefits
   e. safety
   f. discipline
   g. negligence

       h. operational laws
        i. Funding laws
        j. Records retention
3. Discuss the political environment including national EMS representation, professional organizations and lobbying.

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 the issues facing Emergency Medical Service managers and programs today. 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. The assigned textbook will assist you in this working knowledge. 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 allow you to do a variety of activities, in many cases, similar to what you will be doing in your 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. (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)**

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Any and all use of machines that emulate human capabilities (ChatGPT, Stable Diffusion, DALLE, etc.) to perform assignments or other works in the course should be disclosed, as it can border on plagiarism. AI-generated information, as long as this use is properly documented in the references, will need to include the prompt and the significant parts of the response. The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

1. Completing group work that your group has assigned to you.
2. Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
3. Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

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 check the date and time it is due in each module. Initial discussion posts are due by 11:59 PM on Saturdays. Responses to discussion posts and written assignments are due by 11:59 PM on Saturdays.

CANVAS INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Class meetings may 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. Otherwise, discussions and assignments will be web based and submissions will occur electronically. If technology help is required, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- **Learning (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) - (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) support (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) @ (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) ufl (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) . (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) edu (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)**
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- **https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml (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 (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 (http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints)** to submit a complaint.

UF's online/internet privacy statement: **http://privacy.ufl.edu/privacy-policies-and-procedures/onlineinternet-privacy-statement/ (http://privacy.ufl.edu/privacy-policies-and-procedures/onlineinternet-privacy-statement/)**

UF HONOR CODE

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/ (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. Here is the **link.** ⤷ **(https://disability.ufl.edu/)**

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 Conduct:

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 honesty 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."

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module 1: Origin of EMS

Week 1 Introduction – online post
Read Syllabus and review course content
Read Chapter 1
Assign Module One – discussion and assignment
Assign Final Project

Week 2 - History of EMS Law
Read Chapter 2
Module one discussion and assignment due

Module 2: Litigation Prevention

Week 3 - Forming an EMS System
Read Chapter 3
Assignment Module Two – discussion and assignment

Week 4 - Employment and Staffing
Read Chapter 4
Module Two discussion and assignment due

Module 3: FMLA and FLSA

Week 5 - Compensation and Benefits
Read Chapter 5
Assign Module Three discussion and assignment

Week 6 - Safety Considerations

Read Chapter 6

Module Three discussion and assignment due

Module 4: Drug Free Workplace

Week 7 - Record Retention Privacy and Confidentiality

Read Chapter 7

Assign Module Four discussion and assignment

Week 8 - Personnel Management Issues

Read Chapter 8

Module Four discussion and assignment due

Module 5: Negligence in EMS

Week 9 - Legal Pitfalls of Discipline, Termination and Layoffs

Read Chapter 9

Assign Module Five discussion and assignment

Week 10 - The Many Faces of Negligence

Read Chapter 10

Module Five discussion and assignment due

Module 6: EMS Funding

Week 11 - Funding

Read Chapter 11

Assign Module Six discussion and assignment

Week 12 - National EMS Representation

Read Chapter 12

Module Six discussion and assignment due

Module 7: White Paper

Week 13 - Professional Organizations

Read Chapter 13

Assign Module Seven discussion and assignment

Week 14 - Advocating for Change

Read Chapter 14

Module Seven discussion and assignment due

Week 15 - Final Project due

COURSE GRADES

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.

Grading Discussion Participation	15 points each discussion 105 points
Homework Assignments	15 points each assignment 105 points
Final Project	comprehensive and applied 100 points
Total Grade	310 points

GRADING SCALE

A	93.0 to 100%
A-	90.0 to 92.9
B+	87.0 to 89.9
B	83.0 to 86.9
B-	80.0 to 82.9
C+	77.0 to 79.9
C	73.0 to 76.9
C-	70.0 to 72.9
D+	67.0 to 69.9
D	63.0 to 66.9
D-	60.0 to 62.9
F	Below 60

See **https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx** ⤷ **(https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)** regarding current UF grading policies.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give

feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at **https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/** ⤷ **(https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/)** . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via **https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/** ⤷ **(https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwMFAg&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=y2HjEMjRMHJhfdvLrqJZlYczRsfp5e4TfQjHuc5rVHg&m=WXko6OK_Ha6T00ZVAsEaSI** . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at **https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/** ⤷ **(https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/)** .