

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

X Transfer Course    X A.A. Degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** Fire 190 Fire Investigation 1A

**UNIT VALUE:** 2

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 40

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:**

Appropriate language skills.

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**COREQUISITE:** None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

Fire behavior and building construction, investigative techniques required for incendiary, accidental, fatal, vehicle, wildland, and juvenile fire investigations; procedures to collect and preserve physical evidence, and investigative report writing. CSU.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The student will be able to:

1. Identify the requirements of building construction and how this can influence fire travel and therefore fire investigation.
2. Describe the reasons individuals set fires and how the types of fires can help identify the motive and thus the person (s) responsible.
3. Identify types of information collected during scene examination, scene security, and firefighting operations; necessary evidence to establish corpus delicti of arson; available resource agencies and the equipment required.
4. Evaluate the development of present arson laws, select Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, as well as a current court decisions affecting the arson investigator, fire scene searches, case preparation, trial procedures, and courtroom demeanor.

## **CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. Introduction of Fire Investigation
- II. Fire Behavior
- III. Building Construction
- IV. Point of Origin Determination
- V. Motives of the Fire Setter
- VI. Accidental Ignition Sources
- VII. Incendiary Fire Indicators
- VIII. Structure Fire Investigation
- IX. Vehicle Fire Investigation
- X. Fire Fatalities-An overview
- XI. Investigation Tools and Documentation Techniques
- XII. Investigation Tools and Documentation Techniques-Sketching
- XIII. Report Writing
- XIV. Evidence Recognition, Documentation and Preservation
- XV. Legal Aspects of Fire Investigation
- XVI. Explosives and Incendiary Devices
- XVII. Juvenile Fire Setters
- XVIII. Wildland Fire Investigation

## **REQUIRED READING:**

California State Fire Marshal. Fire Investigation 1A Manual. Sacramento, CA: CFSTES, 1987.

## **SUGGESTED READING:**

Kote, Arthur, Ed. Fire Protection Handbook. 17<sup>th</sup> edition. Quincy, MA: NFPA, 1991.

## **REQUIRED WRITING:**

An expository paper that details a fire department of the students choice that outlines the procedures that are used to investigate fires. A minimum of 4-6 typewritten pages are necessary to complete a representative assignment.

## **OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.**

Research for the writing assignment and preparation for examinations.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

### **Check all that apply:**

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

**DISTANCE LEARNING:**

**This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes \_\_\_ No X

**If yes, check all that apply:**

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

30% Quizzes  
20% Term Paper  
50% Final Exam

Note: A minimum of 70% is required for certification by the State Board of Fire Services.

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes \_\_\_ No X Number of times course may be taken for credit: \_\_\_

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:** Brett Van Wey \*1703

**SIGNATURES ON FILE**