

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Basic Arson Investigator AOJ 285-020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor:		
Class time:	Monday through Friday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Semester hours: 4.5	Lecture Hours: 4	Lab Hours: 3.5
Class Location	Campus: Belleville	Room: 1514
Phone:	1-618-222-5396	
Toll Free in Illinois:	1-866-942-SWIC (7942)	
Website:	www.swic.edu	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended for full-time Firefighter 2 personnel who have been certified in Fire Modules I and II with a background in Fire Investigations and whose governmental authority is seeking to advance them to an arson investigator position. All attendees must be “vetted” through the OSFM to ensure they are properly credentialed. Successful completion of this 200-hour course will allow the agency to apply to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for certification and, based on agency preferences, would allow the investigator to act as a peace officer when investigating a suspected arson fire with the power and authority of any certified peace officer.

PREREQUISITES

Coordinator permission and be an active, full-time employee of a local governmental authority, be Firefighter II certified or by-passed, be a graduate of Fire Investigations Modules 1 and 2 (Module 3 is STRONGLY recommended).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course the student will be able to:

- Identify relevant Criminal and Traffic Law statutes.
- Identify and demonstrate Crime Scene Processing.
- Review of Basic Photography Principles.
- Identify the Fundamentals of Investigation.
- Demonstrate Interviewing and Interrogation techniques.
- Demonstrate Law Enforcement Report Writing Skills.
- Demonstrate Surveillance Techniques.
- Identify and discuss relevant Juvenile Law statutes.
- Identify Gangs and Gang Activity.
- Demonstrate proper Courtroom Testimony.
- Using Confidential Informants.
- Demonstrate Control Tactics.
- Demonstrate acceptable firearms skills as outlined in the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board mandatory Firearms Training Course.

TEXTBOOK(S)

West's Illinois Vehicle Code Chapter 625 ILCS

West's Illinois Criminal Law and Procedure, 720 ILCS

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Basic Arson Investigator Training Course Outline of Main Points.

GRADING PROCEDURE

All units of instruction will be tested by weekly written examinations and a final written examination. In order to successfully pass this course, the attendee must maintain a 70% grade point average on the written tests and pass a firearms skills test. There are several courses of instruction that not only require a written exam but a practical exam as well. The practical exams will be graded as pass or fail.

Week One Exam	50 points
Week Two Exam	50 points
Week Three Exam	50 points
Week Four Exam	50 points
Week Five Exam	50 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	100 points
Total Points	350 points
Firearms Qualification	Pass/Fail
Defensive Tactics Practical Exam	Pass/Fail

GRADING SCALE

93-100%	A
86-92%	B
78-85%	C
70-77%	D
69%-	F

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Per the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board attendees must fully participate in all training during the 5 weeks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Disability & Access Center - Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability & Access Center at 618-222-5368 or 618-234-3347 (TDD) to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Student Learning Outcomes - The assessment of student learning is an integral part of the educational experience at Southwestern Illinois College. To this end, the faculty continually assess student learning to improve student success. Occasionally you will be requested to participate in college-wide and discipline specific assessment activities. Please take these assessments seriously. The data that is collected will provide valuable information to faculty and will be used to improve student learning at SWIC.

Academic Dishonesty-College Policy - Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism and forgery, failure or refusal to follow clinical practice standards, and soliciting, aiding, abetting, concealing, or attempting such acts. Plagiarism is defined as the act

of representing the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism may consist of copying, paraphrasing, or otherwise using written or oral work of another without proper acknowledgment of the source or presenting oral or written material prepared by another as one's own.

Phones in Classroom –Cell phones and electronic devices are NOT allowed in the classroom.

Academic Rigor Statement - You are enrolled in an academically rigorous college course. Your success in this course will require a significant investment of time outside of the class. According to the Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board (section 1501.309), it is assumed that the student will invest two hours of outside study time for each hour of classroom lecture time and one hour of outside study time for each two hour laboratory session.

This course is approved under the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). The IAI is based upon the assumption that community colleges and universities are equal partners in delivering lower-division baccalaureate courses. This course is considered equal in scope, quality, and rigor to comparable courses offered at other colleges and universities in Illinois.

Policy for Inclement Weather Conditions – During times of inclement weather, Southwestern Illinois College has three options for dealing with the situation: cancel classes and cease all business, exercise the delayed-start option, or keep the college open. If the college chooses to use the delayed-start option rather than close, **the college will open at 10 a.m.** The decision to cancel classes or exercise the delayed-start option will be posted on the home page of Southwestern's Web site at www.swic.edu as well as broadcast on FOX 2 (KTVI), KMOV-TV Channel 4, KSDK-TV Channel 5, and radio stations KMOX-AM 1120 and WIL-FM 92.3.

SWIC Know online orientation - All new students are encouraged to participate in the SWIC Know online orientation, where students learn about the many programs and services available to help them succeed in college. SWIC Know orientation can be found at eSTORM.SWIC.edu.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Week 1:

Hours

2	COURSE ORIENTATION
2	CASE PREPARATION
12	CRIMINAL OFFENSES
8	CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS
4	CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY
4	ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE
4	LAWS OF ADMISSION/RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED
2	RULES OF EVIDENCE
2	USE OF FORCE

Week 2:

Hours

40	STATE FIREARMS COURSE
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Week 3:

Hours

2	CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIABILITY
4	LAWS OF ARREST
4	LAWS OF SEARCH WARRANTS
8	JUVENILE LAW & PROCESSING
4	INVESTIGATIVE STOPS
4	POLICE CITIZEN RELATIONS
4	GANGS
4	VARIANT BEHAVIOR
4	STRESS MANAGEMENT
2	ETHICS

Week 4:

Hours

4	CRISIS INTERVENTION
4	POLICE COMMUNICATIONS
4	COMMUNICATIONS
4	FUNDAMENTALS OF INVESTIGATION
2	ID PROCEDURES
8	CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
4	FINGERPRINTING – LATENTS AND ROLLED
4	INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION
4	REPORT WRITING
2	CONSENT SEARCH

Week 5:

Hours

2	ARREST, BOOKING, AND DETENTION
2	ARSON FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS
4	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
2	ARREST, BOOKING, AND DETENTION
2	ARSON FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS
4	OC SPRAY & ECD REVIEW
20	CONTROL TACTICS
2	END OF COURSE DEBRIEF AND EVALUATION
6	EXAMINATION AND REVIEW

BASIC ARSON INVESTIGATOR CURRICULUM
200 TOTAL HOURS

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS (10 HOURS)

Hours

- 2 COURSE ORIENTATION
- 2 END OF COURSE DEBRIEF AND EVALUATION
- 6 EXAMINATION AND REVIEW

INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS (188 HOURS)

LAW (60 HOURS)

Hours

- 2 CASE PREPARATION
- 12 CRIMINAL OFFENSES
- 8 CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS
- 4 CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY
- 4 ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE
- 4 LAWS OF ADMISSION/RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED
- 2 RULES OF EVIDENCE
- 2 USE OF FORCE
- 2 CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIABILITY
- 4 LAWS OF ARREST
- 4 LAWS OF SEARCH WARRANTS
- 8 JUVENILE LAW & PROCESSING
- 4 INVESTIGATIVE STOPS

HUMAN BEHAVIOR (22 HOURS)

Hours

- 4 POLICE CITIZEN RELATIONS
- 4 GANGS
- 4 VARIANT BEHAVIOR
- 4 STRESS MANAGEMENT
- 4 CRISIS INTERVENTION
- 2 ETHICS

COMMUNICATIONS (8 HOURS)

Hours

- 4 POLICE COMMUNICATIONS
- 4 COMMUNICATIONS

INVESTIGATIONS (36 HOURS)

Hours

- 4 FUNDAMENTALS OF INVESTIGATION
- 2 ID PROCEDURES
- 8 CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
- 4 FINGERPRINTING – LATENTS AND ROLLED
- 4 INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION
- 4 REPORT WRITING
- 4 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
- 2 CONSENT SEARCH
- 2 ARREST, BOOKING, AND DETENTION
- 2 ARSON FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

PHYSICAL SKILLS (64 HOURS)

Hours

- 4 OC SPRAY & ECD REVIEW
- 20 CONTROL TACTICS
- 40 STATE FIREARMS COURSE