

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**NO TEXTBOOK**

**OBJECTIVES/GUIDELINES**

This course is designed to meet and exceed, in some respects, the minimum qualifications necessary for basic wildland fire suppression positions with State and Federal fire agencies. In addition, there are certifications for S-110, 130, 190 and "Standards for Survival". There is also a mandatory session in civil rights and sexual harassment which **all** students must attend to qualify as "trained fire fighters" with State and Federal fire suppression agencies.

For the duration of the course, a considerable amount of time will be spent in the field constructing hand lines under actual field conditions, and there will be several exercises at the school forest. To be successful, you must complete all segments of each unit of the course, including **all** field exercises. There will be at least two (2) all-day field exercises at the school forest at Sequoia Lake which will be required for full evaluation of field labs. There will be a four (4) mile hike the fifth or sixth week of class which **all** students are to attend.

Early in the semester, each student will be issued a Nomex fire shirt for use during the duration of the course. When you registered for the course, you were required to make a \$35 deposit for the shirt. Provided the shirt is returned in good condition at the end of the course, \$15 of the deposit will be returned. You will be required to wear the shirt to all class sessions and field exercises. A shirt not returned by the end of the semester will have no deposit returned, grades will be held, and the student will be billed for \$98 to replace the shirt.

For safety reasons, hardhats (approved by the instructor), serviceable work clothes (long pants with no cuffs and long sleeved shirt), and boots (laced, with lug soles) are **required for all field exercises**. In addition, **leather** work gloves are required for all field labs. All other safety equipment will be provided by the forestry department and used by **all students at all times** in the field. Details on where to purchase the above required items will be provided as the course gets underway.

We will be training in the use of fire hand tools and chainsaws. **All safety regulations will be strictly enforced** at all times. It would be wise to remember that the school forest at Sequoia Lake is at an elevation of 5,500 feet in the Sierras, dress accordingly.

Early during the semester, each student will be required to complete the Pack test for firefighter proficiency. All firefighters must satisfactorily pass the physical agility test before they will be employed by any fire fighting agency.'

**ATTENDANCE**

The class will meet **promptly** at 1200 each Friday, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. All-day field exercises will begin at 0700 and end at approximately 1700. It is the responsibility of the **student** to check on class meeting changes if they are absent at any time. Students are expected to be in class, properly attired (as outlined above), and ready for activities or field lab sessions **on time**. Attendance points for each class session will be awarded. Excused absences earn attendance points also. Only the following are considered to be "excused" absences: illness,

medical and dental appointments, death or serious injury/illness in the immediate family, and court appearances (on a case-by-case basis). Each of the above will be considered by the instructor as to whether or not it qualifies as an excused absence.

For any absence due to the above, students must contact the instructor at 638-3641, extension 3275 or 3310. Some make-up work may be allowed with the permission of the instructor. No quizzes will be made up. Regular tests/exams missed will have a one (1) week grace period with a 10% reduction in score; otherwise, **no credit** at all after that time.

If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor after class so your absence can be changed to a "tardy". After two consecutive weeks of absence, the student will be dropped. Reinstatement at that point is by formal petition only. Students will be dropped after any six (6) absences for non-attendance. Reinstatement can occur only if extenuating circumstances can be documented. Also, two tardies constitute one absence. **The responsibility to drop the course lies with the student. THE LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE WITHOUT PENALTY IS FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2000, BY 1700.**

Quizzes will be given (unannounced) at the beginning of the class period. Tardy students will not have time to take a quiz after the allotted time is expended. Students are encouraged to arrive **on time** to each class session.

## COLLEGE POLICIES

Campus code requires shoes (sandals accepted) and a shirt be worn at all times. Eating, drinking, or smoking (including use of smokeless tobacco products) is **NOT ALLOWED** in the classroom during class activities. No children and/or pets will be allowed to "sit in" and no animals are allowed in buildings. Smoking during field exercises will be rigidly controlled for fire reasons.

Also, no student may carry a knife of any kind with a blade which exceeds 3" in length. For **field exercises only** in the forestry program, you may carry a folding knife or sheathed knife.

A student must complete the entire course (including the final exam) in order to receive a passing grade.

If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing another's work, he/she will be dropped from the course with a subsequent grade of "F".

No skateboards or roller blades, etc. are allowed in class or on campus.

## INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES

As there is not a textbook for this course, it is very important that students attend all class sessions.

There will be no talking to associate students during class time. Repeated violations of this policy will result in dismissal from class at the discretion of the instructor for the student's return. No "horseplay" will be tolerated at any time in class or in the field.

Male students will remove hats while in the classroom. No bandannas will be worn in class.

Anything you bring with you to class will be taken with you when you leave. If you have refuse to dispose of, there is a trash receptacle provided in the room for your use.

Misuse of equipment and/or supplies will be paid for by the student(s) responsible. This does not mean that equipment will not get damaged or broken through normal use, but once a student is properly trained in the use of the equipment, **misuse will not be tolerated.**

Make-up work and some extra credit will be allowed for students wishing to learn a skill and work in the forestry tool/work room on tasks relating to the firemanship course. For each 1 hour worked, 5 make-up points will be earned (limit of 65 points possible). The credit given will be for **productive** work only. Students will be supervised by an assigned tool room manager who is a student with experience and training in forestry. When students are working in the tool room, they are expected to treat the assigned student leader as a supervisor, not as a fellow student. Failure to do so will result in loss of extra credit privileges for the remainder of the semester or longer.

Missed field exercises can be partly made up by working on firemanship maintenance projects, at the above stated rates. Missed field final, or, but not both can be made up by requesting (in writing) an incomplete final grade. Then the student will make up the missing work during the next semester. These arrangements must be made prior to the final written exam time.

## GRADING

At the successful completion of the course, a letter grade will be issued. For those who warrant it, a certificate of completion for S-110, 130, 190 (Boise Interagency Course Standards) will be provided. In addition, there will be a two (2) hour certification course in civil rights and sexual harassment training and standards for survival which are required in order to be certified as a basic wildland firefighter by Federal agencies. Total participation in field activities, including day long field exercises, will be necessary to receive the qualifications for S-110 through 190.

In general, a passing grade of 70% is a "C". However, in order to pass the course with a "D" grade, a student must maintain an overall average of 55%. Grading is based on a sliding curve using the high total points awarded. In other words, if the highest total points earned by any student is 855, the bottom of the "A" would be about 770, etc.

Breakdown of allowable points:

Written Exams I & II	...	250
Field Labs (minimum 3)	...	300
Field Final (all day)	...	140
Step Test (first 4 weeks only)	...	25
Quizzes (10-15 points each)	...	95±
Attendance (5 points each)	...	135±
Final Exam	...	<u>200±</u>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	...	<b>1145</b>

\*Nearly 52% of this course is field performance oriented.

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday - 1000-1100

If you need to see me for any reason such as problems with the course, please don't hesitate to contact me. If the scheduled office hours will not work for you, other times can be arranged by special appointment.

Telephone: (559) 638-3641, Ext. 3275

## SCHEDULE

The following schedule is contingent upon weather, availability of transportation, and other factors beyond the control of the instructor. It is advised that the student check with the instructor before scheduled field exercises and trips to the school forest, especially if the student has been absent from class.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity/Topic</u>	
1/14	Introduction, Course Objectives, Course Conduct, Fire Physics, and Fuels	
1/2	Fire Behavior, Fuels, Weather	Video: "Fire Weather"
1/28	Fire Behavior: Weather - Special Fuel Conditions, Fuel Flammability Index (C.P.S.)	Film: "Fire Weather"
2/4	Standards for Survival; Firefighting Orders, 18 Situations which shout "Watch Out!"	Video: "Standards for Survival"
2/11	Standards for Survival, Safety, Tools & Tool Maintenance Field Standards for Safety, Personal Equipment <b>Test - Standards for Survival</b>	
2/18	Holiday - NO CLASSES	
2/25	<b>Exam I</b> 4 mile hike - <u>all</u> to attend, critique after hike. Nomex shirts issued. NOTE: All required clothing & equipment check for acceptance.	
3/3	Line Construction Techniques, Tool Maintenance	Video: "Line Construction"
3/10	Line Construction Tools, Mop-up, Air Operations	
3/17	<b>Exam II</b> Line Construction Field Exercise (local)	
3/24	Helicopters, Mechanized Equipment, Safety, Protective Equipment	
3/31	Chainsaws: Safety, Mechanics, Maintenance	
4/7	Power Saws - Field Use & Techniques (local)	
4/14	Line Construction - Field Exercise (local)	
4/21	Spring Break - NO CLASSES (4/17-21)	
4/28	<b>Field Final Exam</b> - Line Construction - Power Saws ( <u>all day</u> exercise)	
5/5	NR 10 & NR 16 Field Course School Forest - All to attend May 4-6, 2000 (No classes at Reedley campus)	
5/12	Nutrition, Civil Rights, Sexual Harassment, I.C.S. Basics	
5/19	<b>Final Exam</b> - Friday, 1030 - 1230	

## FINAL NOTES

It is the student's responsibility to notify all instructors (in advance) of extended field trip absences. Also, remember you are responsible for any work you miss in other classes while attending all day or overnight field trips. It is your responsibility to check with your instructors before trips and make arrangements to make up missed work.

Students are being evaluated throughout the course as potential employees for several wildland firefighting agencies. This form of evaluation has little to do with letter grades. It does, however, have a lot to do with attitude, ability to perform under field conditions, and willingness as a team player. All of the above has a lot to do with securing forestry jobs, especially in fire. Let your conscience be your guide!

**Welcome to the "Bemis Brush Cats"!** We hope you will not only enjoy the course, but that you will learn a lot about wildland fire suppression in the next 18 weeks or so ... your life in the fire service may well depend on it (also your final grade!) When you have successfully completed the course, you will be eligible to purchase and display the "RC Fire" shoulder patch.

