NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
FST 121 - PRINCIPLES OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SAFETY AND SURVIVAL (3 CR.)

Course Description
This course introduces the basic principles and history related to the national firefighter life safety initiatives, focusing on the need for cultural and behavior change throughout the emergency services. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose
The purpose of this course is to present an overview of Firefighter Safety as identified by the National Fire Academy to Fire Science students and those in the fire service.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites
None

Course Objectives
A successful student will be able to:

- Define and describe the need for cultural and behavioral change within the emergency services relating to safety, incorporating leadership, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
- Explain the need for enhancements of personal and organizational accountability for health and safety.
- Define how the concepts of risk management affect strategic and tactical decision-making.
- Describe and evaluate circumstances that might constitute an unsafe act.
- Explain the concept of empowering all emergency services personnel to stop unsafe acts.
- Validate the need for national training standards as they correlate to professional development inclusive of qualifications, certifications, and re-certifications.
- Defend the need for annual medical evaluations and the establishment of physical fitness criteria for emergency services personnel throughout their careers.
- Explain the vital role of local departments in national research and data collection systems.
- Illustrate how technological advancements can produce higher levels of emergency services safety and survival.
- Explain the importance of investigating all near-misses, injuries and fatalities.
- Discuss how incorporating the lessons learned from investigations can support cultural change throughout the emergency services.
- Describe how obtaining grants can support safety and survival initiatives.
- Formulate an awareness of how adopting standardized policies for responding to emergency scenes can minimize near-misses, injuries and deaths.
- Explain how the increase in violent incidents impacts safety for emergency services personnel when responding to emergency scenes.
- Recognize the need for counseling and psychological support for emergency services personnel, their families, as well as, identify access to local resources and services.
- Describe the importance of public education as a critical component of life safety programs.
- Discuss the importance of fire sprinklers and code enforcement.
- Explain the importance of safety in the design of apparatus and equipment.
Major Topics to be Included

Introduction
- History of fire service culture
- Organizational culture
- Individual role in culture/behavior
- History of line of duty deaths and injuries statistics
- Defining the nature of the problem

The national context, health and safety
- NFPA, OSHA
- Medical and fitness standards
- Data Collection (NFIRS)
- Research/Investigation NIST, NIOSH

Training, equipment, response
- Training, certification, credentialing
- Apparatus and equipment
- Emergency response – response to emergency scenes
- Violent incidents
- Emerging technologies

Organizational health and safety profile
- Personal and organizational accountability
- Present condition/culture
- Investigations - internal
- Analyzing your profile
- Utilizing grants to meet needs

Risk Management
- Risk management concepts and practices
- Unsafe acts
- Empowerment definition

Prevention
- Home fire sprinklers
- Code enforcement
- Public education/ fire and life safety
- Counseling and psychological support