Subject:	PASS
Course Number:	523
Descriptive Title:	Truck Driving Pre-Trip Inspection: External
Division:	Library and Learning Resources
Department:	Pathways to Academic Success
Course Disciplines:	Truck Driving
Catalog Description:	This noncredit course provides students with hands-on training in external vehicle inspection procedures for commercial vehicles. Students will learn how to systematically inspect key vehicle components, including lighting systems, tires, brakes, suspension, air hoses, coupling systems, and safety equipment, ensuring compliance with industry safety standards. The course emphasizes hazard identification, troubleshooting, and preventive maintenance to help students recognize potential mechanical failures and safety risks before a vehicle is operated. Through interactive exercises and real-world simulations, students will develop critical thinking skills and practical expertise needed to perform thorough external inspections. Designed for adult learners preparing for careers in commercial driving, this course enhances workforce readiness and promotes road safety.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	1.11
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	2.22
Total Course Hours:	20
Course Units:	0
Grading Method:	Pass/No Pass/SP
Credit Status:	Noncredit
Transfer CSU:	No
Effective Date:	
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education ECC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	

Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. conduct a full external vehicle inspection by systematically evaluating lighting systems, tire conditions, fluid levels, and braking mechanisms. 2. identify and assess potential safety hazards that may lead to mechanical failures or violations of regulatory safety standards. 3. demonstrate proper inspection procedures for key vehicle components, including air brake systems, steering linkages, and suspension systems.
Course Objectives:	1. Explain the importance of external vehicle inspections for safety, compliance, and preventive maintenance. 2. Identify key external vehicle components that require routine inspection, including ID lights, clearance lights, and turn signals. 3. Perform a tire and brake system inspection, checking for proper inflation, tread depth, air leaks, and signs of wear or damage. 4. Evaluate steering, suspension, and coupling systems, ensuring all parts are securely mounted and in working condition. 5. Inspect fluid levels and hoses for leaks, proper connections, and signs of wear. 6. Demonstrate the ability to document and report inspection findings according to industry and regulatory standards. 7. Participate in hands-on inspection simulations, applying problem-solving skills to detect and address potential safety concerns.
Major Topics:	Introduction to External Vehicle Inspection A. Purpose and importance of external inspections B. Legal and regulatory requirements for commercial vehicle inspections C. Overview of key external components II. General Vehicle Condition & Lighting Systems A. Checking for a level vehicle stance (front to back, side to side) B. Inspecting ID and clearance lights, headlights, turn signals, and 4-way flashers C. Ensuring proper function and cleanliness of reflectors and lenses III. Engine Compartment & Fluid Level Inspection A. Checking coolant, oil, and power steering fluid B. Inspecting for leaks, cracks, and secure mounting of reservoirs and hoses C. Evaluating air line connections and listening for leaks IV. Steering, Suspension, and Brake Systems A. Assessing the steering gearbox, pitman arm, drag link, and steering arm B. Inspecting spring mounts, leaf springs, and shock absorbers C. Checking brake hoses, brake drum contamination, and air brake function V. Tire and Wheel Inspection A. Checking tire inflation, tread depth, and sidewall condition B. Evaluating air valve stems, rims, and lug nuts for damage or looseness C. Identifying rust trails or missing components that indicate mechanical failure VI. Coupling System & Trailer Connection A. Inspecting the fifth wheel skid plate, king pin, and locking jaws

	B. Evaluating air and electrical connectors for leaks, wear, or improper connections C. Ensuring landing gear and support frames are secure and in proper position VII. Hands-On Inspection Practice & Troubleshooting A. Conducting a full external vehicle inspection simulation B. Identifying and reporting safety hazards C. Reviewing common errors and best practices for inspection success VIII. Course Review & Final Inspection A. Demonstrating a complete external inspection under timed conditions B. Real-world challenges and solutions C. Next steps for industry certification
Total Lecture Hours:	20
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	20
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
Primary Method of Evaluation:	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	**Vehicle Inspection Checklist Exercise** Instructions: • Use an official vehicle inspection checklist to inspect a training vehicle. • Identify at least three potential issues and explain their impact on vehicle operation and safety. • Present your findings in a brief group discussion on common safety concerns.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	**Tire & Brake System Problem-Solving Exercise** Instructions: • A commercial vehicle has the following problems: o Uneven tread wear on front tires o Brake hose showing visible cracking o Lug nuts with rust trails • Answer the following questions on a piece of paper, which you will give to your instructor: o What are the possible causes of each issue? o How should a driver or inspector address these problems? o What could happen if these issues are ignored?
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	**Real-World External Inspection Analysis** Instructions: • Watch the following real-life external vehicle inspection video (provided by the instructor). • Take notes on major violations or safety risks found in the video. • Write a short response explaining: o What the inspector did well. o What additional steps they could have taken. o How this inspection compares to industry best practices.

Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Embedded Questions, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Performance Exams, Presentation, Quizzes
If Other:	
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Skill practice, Study
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Instructor-generated materials
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite	
Category	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). if applicable	
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Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). if applicable	
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	

Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Matthew Kline
Date:	02/20/2025
Original Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026