

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CJ 1013 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

An overview of the issues and trends in the criminal justice system including ethics, law enforcement, courts and trial processes, corrections, jail and prison systems, juvenile justice systems, and the future of the criminal justice system. (ACTS: CRJU 1023)

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the basic concepts and theories in the criminal justice field.
2. Understand the role of each component (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) of the CJ system and each role of its various actors.
1. Become acquainted with the scope of crime, how it is measured, and how it is reported.
2. Apply theory in explaining criminal behavior.
3. Enhance knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and learn about court cases based on the Constitution.
4. Develop critical thinking skills through writing assignments, readings, videos, guest speakers, and discussions.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will use essay format for written assignments and discuss particular aspects of various topics.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will examine ethical dilemmas within the criminal justice field and develop ethical frameworks to resolve specific ethical issues.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Overview of police, courts, and corrections
- B. Crime and the causes of crime
- C. Issues and challenges facing the Criminal Justice System