

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CJ 1253 Criminology

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites or corequisites: CJ 1013 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System and SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A study of crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crimes; past and present theories; and evaluation of prevention; control, and treatment programs.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Identify the theories of crime and delinquency.
2. Understand the nature and definition of crime and delinquency.
3. Understand the social nature of crime.
4. Investigate why some people commit crime and others do not.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify criminal justice 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 the field of criminology
- B. Crime and the causes of crime
- C. Effectiveness of the explanations of the causes of crime.