

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CJ 2003 Introduction to Criminal Law

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: CJ 1013 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of criminal law including the classification of criminal offenses, elements of crimes, ranges of punishment, accomplice liability, and basic defenses to criminal charges.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Compare and contrast the elements of the most commonly prosecuted crimes.
2. Examine and discuss differences between anticipatory offenses (conspiracy, solicitation and attempt).
3. Explain how crimes are classified and punishments are affixed.
4. Identify and analyze the various defenses to criminal culpability.
5. Identify and discuss where specific criminal codes or Titles located.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will synthesize material from various sources to complete research papers.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format to complete writing assignments and a research paper. Students will be able to discuss particular elements of various criminal offenses. Students will make oral presentations of their research projects.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in enforcing criminal law.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Differences between criminal and civil law
- B. Elements of crime
- C. Anticipatory offenses and parties to crimes
- D. Defenses to criminal culpability
- E. Criminal Homicide
- F. Assault, Rape, and other crimes against the person
- G. Property and related crimes
- H. Crimes against public order and public decency
- I. Crimes against the government and terrorism
- J. Substance abuse crimes
- K. Sentencing