

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

CJ 2373 Police Systems and Practices

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

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

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of the philosophy and history of law enforcement; limitations imposed on law enforcement in a democratic society in accordance with the Constitution; agencies of law enforcement; the role and place of law enforcement in the total justice process. Examines the police profession; organization of law enforcement systems; police discretion; ethics; police community interaction; current and future issues in policing.

B. Additional Course Information

This is considered to be a “core” course for criminal justice majors and covers all the basic concepts in the sub-discipline of police systems.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Explain the operations, goals and tasks of police operations.
2. Understand basic patrol techniques and patrol investigations.
3. Understand verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of patrol techniques and strategies.
5. Know proper procedures required to respond to a call.
6. Know traffic stop procedures.
7. Demonstrate a knowledge of crimes in progress procedures.
8. Demonstrate the knowledge of responding to emergency situations and investigating a crime.

B. University Learning Outcomes

Police Systems and Practices enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will 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. Roots of American Policing
- B. Evolution of Policing in America and internationally
- C. Individuals in Policing
- D. Police and the Community
- E. Law Enforcement and the Police
- F. Service and the Police
- G. Order and the Police
- H. Community Policing
- I. Problem Oriented Policing
- J. Future Trends in Policing