

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CJ 2403 Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement

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

The study of investigation, arrest, search and seizure; and constitutional and statutory law and the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and the Arkansas Court of Criminal Appeals.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Develop an understanding of and explain the nature and limits of criminal law in U.S. Society.
2. Describe the general principles of criminal liability, defenses to criminal liability, parties to various crimes, constitutional limitations on criminal law and crimes against persons, the state, property, and public order.
3. Apply theory in explaining criminal behavior.
4. Enhance knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and learn about court cases based on the Constitution.

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 law enforcement problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

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

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will examine ethical dilemmas within the law enforcement investigation and arrests 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. Behaviors that deserve criminal punishment
- B. Primary sources of criminal law
- C. Major concepts of criminal punishment, presumption of innocence and levels of proof
- D. Role informal discretion plays in criminal law
- E. Constitutional limitations on criminal law, criminal procedure, and punishment