

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
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**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
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**General Syllabus**

**CJ 3213 Criminal Investigations**

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**

Overview of scientific crime detection and detailed discussion of techniques for case management and documentation, the concept of proof, the impact of emergent technology on the investigative process, interacting with victims and witnesses, and interviewing suspects. Emphasis on the investigation of particular types of crimes; for example, homicides, sex offenses, child abuse, hate crimes, and so forth.

**B. Additional Information – None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Appraise the fundamentals of criminal investigation, including crime scene analysis, documentation and compiling reports.
2. Discuss suspect identification processes.
3. Explain differences between interrogation and interview of suspects and witnesses.
4. Assess what laboratory services are available and distinguish how to submit evidence for analysis.
5. Determine legal issues that impact criminal investigations, including court rulings.
6. Describe intelligence, surveillance, and undercover operations.
7. Compare and contrast the investigative methods for specific types of crimes against persons, property crimes, drug and gang related crimes.
8. Describe the prosecutorial and court process.

## **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 investigation 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 criminal investigations 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. Foundation of criminal investigation
- B. Crime scene documentation and processing
- C. Legal issues in criminal investigation
- D. Interview and interrogation
- E. Criminal intelligence and surveillance operations
- F. Investigation of specific crimes
- G. Preparation for court