

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

## **General Syllabus**

### **PSYC 3703 Introduction to Forensic Psychology**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: PSYC 1163 General Psychology, and ENGL 1213 Composition II, ENGL 1233 Honors Composition or RHET 2863 Advanced Composition, and one of the following: HIST 2763 United States History II or POLS 2753 American National Government or CJ 1013 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Reviews behavioral theories and research and their relationship with the legal system; examines roles of psychologists in the criminal justice system. Includes an examination of the services of forensic psychologists such as expert witnessing, criminal profiling, trial consulting, legal decision making on child custody, jury selection, mental health services, and assessment methods of maladaptive behaviors in a forensic setting.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Discuss concepts and principles of forensic psychology;
2. Critically examine the application of behavioral theories in the criminal justice system;
3. Appraise the services of and methods used by forensic psychologists in conducting and presentation of a criminal investigation.

##### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

##### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

**Analytical Skills****Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Forensic psychology
- B. Theories in psychology and behavioral research
- C. Legal system and criminal justice system
- D. Services of forensic psychologists
- E. Expert witnessing
- F. Criminal profiling, trial consulting
- G. Legal decision making on child custody
- H. Jury selection
- I. Mental health services
- J. Assessment methods of maladaptive behaviors