University of Arkansas – Fort Smith 5210 Grand Avenue
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General Syllabus
CRJU 12573 Criminology

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites and Corequisites: None

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description
A study of crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crimes; past and present theories; and evaluation of prevention; control, and treatment programs.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and summarize the major criminological theories related to crime and delinquency
2. Explain how crime and delinquency are shaped by social definition, norms, and context
3. Classify and provide examples of different types of crime and their categorization
4. Outline the main concepts of the criminal justice system and describe their basic functions
5. Exhibit critical thinking skills through research, writing assignments, and discussions

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 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.

III. Major Course Topics

A. Overview of the field of criminology
B. Crime and the causes of crime
C. Effectiveness of the explanations of the causes of crime.