

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith 5210 Grand Avenue
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General Syllabus

CRJU 23173 Correctional Systems and Practices

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

Prerequisite or corequisite: CRJU 10203 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Analysis and evaluation of contemporary correctional systems and discussion of recent research concerning the correctional institution and the various field services.

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 the primary goals and functions of the correctional system in the United States
2. Describe the major types of punishment and correctional sanctions, including intermediate sanctions, incarceration, and community-based sanctions
3. Explain the organizational structure of correctional systems at the local, state, and federal levels
4. Recognize basic operational procedures in correctional facilities, including inmate classification, supervision, and rehabilitation programs
5. Discuss key issues related to correctional officer roles, inmate rights, and accountability within correctional institutions.
6. 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 identify correctional systems 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 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. Overview of corrections at the state and federal level
- B. History of corrections
- C. Alternate sanctions