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

# CRJU 23773 Police 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

Study of the philosophy and history of law enforcement; limitations imposed on law enforcement in a democratic society in accordance with the Constitution; agencies of law enforcement; the role and place of law enforcement in the total justice process. Examines the police profession; organization of law enforcement systems; police discretion; ethics; police community interaction; current and future issues in policing.

### B. Additional Course Information

This is considered to be a "core" course for criminal justice majors and covers all the basic concepts in the sub-discipline of police systems.

## II. Student Learning Outcomes

### A. Subject Matter

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

1. Identify the primary roles and responsibilities of law enforcement in contemporary U.S. society.
2. Describe the structure and organization of law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.
3. Explain basic law enforcement field operations, including patrol and investigative functions
4. Recognize common factors that influence police behavior and decision-making
5. Discuss the principles of ethics and police accountability, including use of force and oversight mechanisms
6. Exhibit critical thinking skills through research, writing assignments, and discussions

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

Police Systems and Practices enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will 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.

**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. Roots of American Policing
B. Evolution of Policing in America and internationally
C. Individuals in Policing
D. Police and the Community
E. Law Enforcement and the Police
F. Service and the Police
G. Order and the Police
H. Community Policing
I. Problem Oriented Policing
J. Future Trends in Policing