University of Arkansas – Fort Smith 5210 Grand Avenue
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General Syllabus

CRJU 33673 Violent Offenders

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

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 24103 Advanced Composition
Effective Catalog: 2025-2026

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Provides an introduction to psychological issues relating to understanding, assessing, and managing criminal and other abnormal behavior. An overview of mental disorders and their relationship to criminality and violence is provided. Topics include sanity, psychopathy, criminal profiling, serial killers, stalking, women who kill, and threat assessment.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Evaluate the types, methods, and costs of violence.
2. Analyze the trends in violence.
3. Analyze the correlates of violence.
4. Discuss sociological aspects of violence.
5. Evaluate the psychological and psychiatric approaches to understanding violence.
6. Assess the biological factors relating to violence.
7. Examine the impact that exposure to violence has on future violence.
8. Assess how the criminal justice system seeks to control violence.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify and assess criminal and other abnormal behaviors 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 in a seminar setting.

Ethical Decision Making
Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will examine ethical dilemmas with criminal and other abnormal behaviors 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. Trends in violence
B. Correlates of violence
C. Sociological aspects of violence
D. Psychological and psychiatric approaches to understanding violence
E. Biological factors and violence
F. Exposure to violence
G. Different types of violent crimes
H. Controlling violence by the use of punishment
I. Victimology and violence.