

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith 5210 Grand
Avenue
P.O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913**

General Syllabus

CJ 3513/CRJU 35173 Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Justice

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: ENGL 1213/ENGL 10203 Composition II or
RHET 2863/ENGL 24103 Advanced Composition

Effective Catalog: 2025-2026

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description:

This course delves into the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency, exploring various explanatory models and theories that inform our understanding of youth crime. Students will examine the juvenile justice system's historical context and philosophical foundations while gaining insight into the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, the courts, and rehabilitation in addressing delinquency.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Critically discuss the foundational concepts and theories within the juvenile justice field, evaluating their relevance and application to contemporary issues.
2. Analyze and articulate the roles and interactions of key components within the juvenile justice system—law enforcement, courts, and corrections—while assessing the contributions of various actors in each domain.
3. Investigate and evaluate the scope of juvenile crime, exploring methodologies for measurement and reporting, and critically assessing the implications of these statistics for policy and practice.
4. Apply theoretical frameworks to articulate and analyze the underlying factors contributing to juvenile criminal behavior, linking theory to real-world examples.
5. Demonstrate a Comprehensive Understanding of the U.S. Constitution as it pertains to juvenile justice by engaging with landmark court cases to assess their influence on legal practices and rights within the system.
6. Enhance analytical skills through diverse learning methods—including writing assignments, readings, multimedia content, guest lectures, and discussions—promoting analytical and evaluative thinking in the context of juvenile justice issues.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Students will identify 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 law enforcement investigation and arrests 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 police, courts, and corrections
- B. Crime and the causes of juvenile crime
- C. Issues and challenges facing the Juvenile Justice System