University of Arkansas – Fort Smith 5210 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

CRJU 39173 Drugs and Crime

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

Examines the role that drugs play in the U.S. criminal justice system. Include the history of drug prohibition and the types of illegal drugs available in the
U.S., patterns, trends, and scope of illicit drug use, consideration of the relationship between drugs and crime, and manifestations and consequences of the criminal justice system response.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Analyze the history of drugs in the United States.
2. Examine the illegalization of drug use in America.
3. Investigate the harm done by drug use to American society.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify drug related crimes 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 in dealing with drug related crimes 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. History of drug use
B. Drug trafficking
C. Drug production.