University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CRJU 41173 Professionalism and Ethics in Criminal Justice

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 theories and practices in areas of legality, morality, values, professional conduct, and ethics pertaining to criminal justice. Topics include police corruption, brutality, and methods of dealing with such practices.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Evaluate theories and practices in areas of legality, morality, values, and ethics pertaining to criminal justice.
2. Explain a variety of ethical systems used in decision making.
3. Analyze the concept of professionalism and professional conduct.
4. Assess the ethical dilemmas each component (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) of the CJ system.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify professionalism and ethical issues pertaining to criminal justice.

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 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 ethics, ethical frameworks and decision making of police, courts, and corrections
B. Common ethical dilemmas confronting Criminal Justice practitioners
C. Concept of professionalism and professional conduct.