University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CRJU 49673 Criminal Justice Capstone

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

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 24103 Advanced Composition and Criminal Justice major with senior standing, to be taken in semester of anticipated graduation with consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2025-2026

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Synthesizes disciplinary learning by integrating key concepts and theories with students' core area of criminal justice focus. Students will design and implement a comprehensive capstone project related to their area of focus culminating in a written and oral presentation.

B. Additional Information

Specifically designed to provide senior level undergraduate students with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to be successful in the field of criminal justice.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of the key concepts, theories and ethical dilemmas in the field of criminal justice.
2. Design a research project in the student's area of focus (law enforcement, corrections, courts, juvenile justice, law and public policy).
3. Create an analytical framework by integrating criminal justice concepts and theories.
4. Develop data collection instrumentation.
5. Gather and analyze empirical data using appropriate statistical tools.
6. Construct a report and present findings in an oral presentation.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)
Students will write essays, critically discuss, and evaluate theories in explaining criminal behavior as well as compare and contrast substantive theories.

Analytical Skills
Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will formulate and execute an appropriate analysis of the information collected for their research project.

Ethical Decision Making
Students will identify ethical dilemmas related to the research project and develop ethical frameworks to resolve specific ethical issues.

III. Major Course Topics

A. Police operations, courts, corrections and juvenile justice system
B. Ethics
C. The criminal justice system
D. Legal aspects of law enforcement and liability
E. Crime, disorder and quality of life issues and law enforcement's response
F. Research techniques and theories in criminal justice