

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

General Syllabus

CRJU 25074 Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science

Credit Hours: 4 Lecture Hours: 2 Laboratory Hours: 4

Prerequisite or corequisite: CRJU 10203 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Process of analysis of forensic evidence and development in crime scene techniques, to include the basic knowledge of and some practical experience in, techniques concerning types of evidence including fingerprint, impression evidence, hair, fiber, trace, firearm, tooth mark, biological, accelerant, explosive, and drug.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Discuss the basic concepts and theories in the forensics field.
2. Properly identify the components and functions of a DSLR camera.
3. Properly photograph evidence.
4. Properly identify, collect and preserve evidence.
5. Properly fingerprint and palm print a person and classify the fingerprints.
6. Define the responsibilities of a first responder.
7. Identify and utilize proper protocol for responding to and processing a crime scene.
8. Explain the role physical evidence plays in crime scene reconstruction.
9. Understand and display the process of comparing evidence against standard/reference samples.
10. Demonstrate what physical evidence is and what an artifact is.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following general education areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify forensic science issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will assign and use numbers, read and analyze data, create models, draw inferences, and support conclusions on criminalistics/forensic science based on sound mathematical reasoning.

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 forensic science 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. The history and evolution of forensics
- B. What is physical evidence and the role it plays in forensics
- C. The different types of physical evidence and the proper recognition, collection and preservation