

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
The City University of New York
524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019
CORPORATE AND WHITE COLLAR CRIME (ECO/SOC 360:99)
Course Syllabus
Spring 2019

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Office Number: Economics Department, 9.63.13
Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In examining crimes committed by corporations and organizations, as well as individuals in the course of their occupation, this course explores: how such crimes are socially defined, who commits them, who is victimized by them, which social contexts promote them and how society responds to them. How the economic, social and political costs of corporate and white collar crime are compared to street crime. Other topics that the course examines include: embezzlement, fraud, and theft which occurs within enterprises, including “underground” economic activities. The course also examines criminal violations of antitrust and environmental laws, securities fraud, fiduciary fraud, market crimes; and corrupt relationships between business and government.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of corporate and white-collar crime and the economic, political and social impact of fraud. Upon completion of this course students are expected to have a solid knowledge on the history of the corporate and white-collar crimes, and be able to analyze the schemes behind each type of crimes that are covered in this course.

Required Readings

Rosoff, S., Pontell, H., and Tillman, R. (2014). Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and The Looting of America, 6th Edition, Pearson, (ISBN #13-978-0-13-300850-0, ISBN #10-0-13-300850-9).

Read the local papers daily. Current events work very well with the course material and will be used to outline concepts when relevant.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. **Required readings:** You are required to read assigned materials and additional readings before online class discussion.
- b. **Examinations:** Midterm and final examinations will be given. You will have four to five days to complete each of them. Please note that NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR UNEXCUSED, MISSED EXAMS.
- c. **Class Participation and weekly exercises:** You are expected to participate in class discussion boards and complete the weekly exercises. To receive full credit for each weekly discussion, in addition to the quality of your responses, you must submit a minimum of two posts (one a reply to the question I ask, the other responding to a fellow student's own reply).

Please follow this guideline for submitting your assignments: Class discussions boards and exercises will be posted on *Monday morning* and must be completed by *Sunday midnight*. The discussions are graded and require continuous participation. Discussions replace a normal classroom's discussion space. You should join the discussions early in each week and come

back often. For this course, posts to discussion boards are expected to rise to the quality expected of graded work, and students should communicate clearly and with civility. Students are expected to participate in the Blackboard discussion and provide quality responses and valuable in-put. The utilization of the term i.e. “I agree” does not constitute as a sufficient written response when commenting on a topic or another person’s written statements.

- d. **Written Assignments:** Two current event analysis papers: Students will review the headlines in the www.nytimes.com and the www.washingtonpost.com daily to identify a White Collar Crime case of relevance. In 3-5 pages’ students will write two case study analyses during the course of the semester using the case study framework provided by the instructor. All papers will be graded according to the criteria set forth in the case study framework. Papers must be typewritten in 12-point font size (preferably Times New Roman), double spaced, and have one-inch margins all around. All papers must be submitted on their due date through blackboard. Late papers will not be accepted.

STATEMENT OF THE COLLEGE POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source. It is the student’s responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary and direct quotations are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source are cited. Students, who are unsure how and when to provide documentation, are advised to consult with me. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin, <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php> , see Chapter IV Academic Standards)

Instructor will use originality check softwares such as Turnitin/Safeassign. As students, you are encouraged to screen your final project before submission. If you have trouble using Turnitin/Safeassign, email your instructor at rtaveras@jjay.cuny.edu.

COURSE OPERATION:

This course is “asynchronous,” meaning there is no specific time of day you need to be online with the class. However, you will need to spend significant time on this class every week. I highly recommended that you set aside a certain number of days and times every week to work on this class. You should set aside a portion of time early in the week to read and get started with the discussion. Essentially, you set your own “class time,” so make sure it is a sufficient amount of time.

GRADING CRITERIA

a. Discussion Board	20%
b. Quizzes	20%
c. (2) Current event paper analyses	20%
d. Midterm exam	20%
d. Final exam	20%

LATE SUBMISSION POLICY

As a matter of fairness to students whose assignments are on time, late submissions and late exam-takings will not be accepted. Readings, discussion forum posts, and other assignments are the foundation for class dialogue, which accomplishes the most when everyone has completed their

work for the week **before class**. If you are experiencing unexpected and severe personal problems that are continually interfering with your ability to complete your work, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

DISABILITY POLICY

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who would like to discuss classroom or exam accommodations should come and see me as soon as possible. You can meet me after class or privately during office hours. For your information, the phone number for Student Accessibility Services is (212)237-8031, if you want to call and register.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

This syllabus contains all the information you need to navigate the course over the term, and it is imperative that you use it to plan your course work. It is your responsibility to read and understand all the material in this syllabus. **THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SYLLABUS AS SHE SEES FIT.** Before such adjustments and amendments, the professor will provide appropriate notice through Blackboard or email of any such adjustments or amendments.

Finally, and extremely important, instructions and materials will mainly appear in the announcements of every week, so that you work on the assigned material during the rest of the week. You will also be able to see work for upcoming weeks in case you want to start reading for the next sections (however, you cannot submit work beforehand).

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- a. Midterm Exam: March 31st
- b. Final Exam: May 19th

WEEKLY TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS **WEEKLY TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Week of January 28, 2019

Introduction

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 1: White Collar Crime Introduction

Discussion and Quiz

Week of February 4, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 2: Crimes Against Consumers

Watch documentary: Sour Grapes

Discussion

Week of February 11, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 3: Unsafe Products

Discussion and Quiz

Week of February 18, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 4: Environmental Crime

Discussion and Quiz

Week of February 25, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 5: Institutional Corruption: Mass Media and Religion

Discussion and Quiz

Week of March 4, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 6: Securities Fraud

Discussion and Quiz

Week of March 11, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 13: Conclusions
Discussion

Current event analysis#1 due March 17, 2019

Week of March 18, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 7: Corporate Fraud
Discussion and Quiz

Week of March 25, 2019

Midterm exam due date March 31, 2019

Week of April 1, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 8: Fiduciary Fraud
Discussion and Quiz

Week of April 7, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 9: Crimes by the Government
Discussion and Quiz

Week of April 14, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 10: Corruption of Public Officials
Watch movie: All The Queen's Horses
Discussion

Week of April 22, 2019

Spring Break. No class discussion
Work on your current event analysis#2

Week of April 29, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 11: Medical Crime
Discussion and Quiz

Current Event Analysis #2 due date May 5, 2019

Week of May 6, 2019

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 12: Computer Crime
Discussion and Quiz

Week of May 12, 2019

Watch documentary: Unraveled
Discussion to be submitted by May 14th
Final Exam due date May 19, 2019