



CORPORATE AND WHITE-COLLAR CRIME (ECO/SOC 360:99)
Course Syllabus Spring 2023

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Office Hours: Primary contact through e-mail. In-office meeting may be scheduled by request.

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 occur 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 of the history of corporate and white-collar crimes and be able to analyze the schemes behind each type of crime that is covered in this course.

Required Readings

Rosoff, S., Pontell, H., and Tillman, R. (2020). *Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and The Looting of America*, 7th Edition, Pearson. This is a required book; thus, you will need to get a copy of it.

Friedrichs, D. (2010). *Trusted Criminals: White Collar Crime in Contemporary America*, 4th Edition, Wadsworth Publishing. Copies of three chapters will be provided by the instructor.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with current issues and circumstances that could be related to the course material. This could be done through a review of the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and any other periodical or journal that could be associated with the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Required readings: You are required to read assigned materials and additional readings before online class discussion.
- b. Midterm and final examinations will be given. You will have between three to four days to complete each of them. Please note that **NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR UNEXCUSED, MISSED EXAMS.**
- c. Class Participation and weekly quizzes: You are expected to participate in class discussion boards and complete the weekly quizzes. 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 one to the instructor's reply, or a fellow student's post.)

Please follow this guideline for submitting your assignments: There will be one class discussion and one quiz during the week unless specified in the lesson schedule. Class discussion boards and quizzes will be posted on Monday morning and must be completed by Sunday midnight. The discussions are graded and require continuous participation.

Discussions replace normal classroom discussions. You should join the discussions early 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 input. The utilization of the term i.e. "I agree" does not constitute a sufficient written response when commenting on a topic or another person's written statements.

There will be 10 quizzes, and each quiz is worth 10 points. These are required and cannot be substituted with extra credit submissions. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. Do not wait until the last minute to take the quiz because I will not be available to reset the quiz if you get kicked out.

- d. Two current event analysis papers are required in this course. Students will review the headlines on www.nytimes.com and 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 semester using the case study framework provided by the instructor. All papers will be graded according to the criteria outlined 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.

- e. Movie written assignment. Students will need to watch a movie and write a 2-5-page report based on some questions assigned by the instructors.

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 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 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.

Paraphrasing, summary, and direct quotations are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the sources 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)

The instructor will use originality check software 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 considerable time on this class every week. I highly recommend 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. You set your own "class time," so make sure it is enough time.

GRADING CRITERIA

The final grade will be assessed based upon your performance on the following:

- a. Discussion Board 20%
- b. 10 Quizzes 15%
- c. (2) Current event paper analyses 20%
- d. Movie written assignment 5%
- e. Midterm exam 20%
- f. Final exam 20%

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be no extra credit given.

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 (not at the end of the semester.)

DISABILITY POLICY

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who would like to discuss classroom or exam accommodation should contact me as soon as possible. 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 coursework. 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 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).

If you need to send an email to the instructor, you should:

- Use a subject line that describes what you are writing about.
- Use appropriate greetings.
- Be clear, concise, and courteous.
- Sign your message with the name you are registered in the class.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Midterm Exam: March 26, 2023

Final Exam: May 21, 2023

WEEKLY TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week of January 25-29, 2023

Introduce yourself

Introduction

Read: Friedrichs, Chapter 1: The Discovery of White-Collar Crime Discussion and Quiz

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/01/04/biggest-fraud-trials-holmes/>

Week of January 30, 2023

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 2: Crimes Against Consumers Watch Documentary: Sour Grapes (2016)

<https://tubitv.com/movies/566286/sour-grapes>

Discussion, no quiz

Week of February 6, 2023

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 3: Unsafe Products Discussion and Quiz

<https://www.legalexaminer.com/category/home-family/baby-powder-lawsuits/>

Week of February 13, 2023

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 4: Environmental Crime Discussion and Quiz

Week of February 20, 2023

Read: Friedrichs, Chapter 2: Studying White Collar Crime and Assessing its Costs Discussion and Quiz; Rosoff Chapter 13: Conclusions

Week of February 27, 2022

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 6: Securities Fraud Discussion and Quiz

Week of March 6, 2023

Read: Friedrichs, Chapter 8: Explaining White Collar Crimes Theories and Accounts Discussion, no quiz

Current event analysis#1 is due March 12, 2023

Week of March 13, 2023

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

Week of March 20, 2023

Midterm

Week of March 27, 2023

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

Week of April 3, 2023

Bad Education Movie (2019), Amazon, Netflix, HBO

Movie Written Assignment, due date April 5th

Week of April 17, 2023

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

Week of April 24, 2023

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

Week of May 1, 2023

Read: Rosoff, Chapter 10: Corruption of Public Officials Watch Documentary: All the Queen's Horses Discussion, No quiz

Current Event Analysis #2 due date May 7, 2023

Week of May 8, 2023

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

Final Exam due date: May 18-21, 2023