

CJS 350 READINGS: White Collar Crime

Trusted Criminals: A Study of White Collar Crime and the Pathological Pursuit of Profit

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Spring 2021 Fully On-Line

Office: By e-mail, phone or virtual by appointment

3 credits Prerequisite: Upper class standing

Course Description

The term "white collar crime" encompasses a wide variety of illegal activity: fraud, bribery, tax evasion, insider trading, conspiracy, stock-option backdating, embezzlement, and cyber-crime. It is estimated that white collar crime is an over \$4 billion a year business in the U.S. alone yet it remains the most under reported and under prosecuted crime. When these crimes are prosecuted, probation and restitution are the most likely outcome. With the use of several case studies we will explore the hidden world of "high status" crime. Topics covered include conceptual and definitional aspects of white-collar crime; theories and causes; offenders, victims, and costs; policies relevant to investigation, prosecution, and sentencing; and public policies aimed at prevention.

Course Objectives & Goals

This course provides you with an understanding of:

1. Issues, varieties and historical development of white-collar crime.
2. Social, political, and economic costs of the various forms of white-collar crime.
3. Various theoretical explanations and research.
4. Intricacies in detecting, prosecuting and sentencing white-collar offenders.
5. Efforts to reduce corporate crime and professional deviance.

Assessment of Program Learning Objectives

Program Learning Objectives will be assessed through writing assignments, and group and individual research.

Reading

The reading for this course is from professional peer reviewed sources, all articles will be available on my courses.

Film

The films for this course will be available on my courses via link. Most are available free of charge on Kanopy.

Communication Plan

Please use email when the subject is of a personal and confidential matter. If the question you ask is of a nature that even one other person in the course could benefit from the answer, you can either post the question in the appropriate discussion board forum or use e-mail. In all electronic communications students should be respectful of one another.

Time Considerations

Students should be prepared to spend a minimum of 6 hours a week on reading and on course assignments. Save backup copies of all important assignments, including discussion postings. Please be sure to budget your time accordingly! Students are expected to complete assigned reading each week and to participate in classroom discussion. The discussion should go beyond repeating or agreeing with peers comments they should:

- Challenge comments in class, including those of the facilitator. Ask insightful questions.
- Answer other people's questions.
- Exemplify the point with real-life events, when possible.
- Make comments that are relevant to the course content and objectives.

Ideas for Substantive Participation Include:

- Share an experience that is related to the discussion. Comment on other participants' experiences that are related to the course.
- Ask others questions about their ideas and experiences that are related to the course.
- Challenge a point that another participant made in a respectful manner. Offer a different perspective on an idea that is being discussed.
- Give insights gained from readings that were assigned for the week. If you need more information, ask the participants a question about the week's reading.

- Discuss a work issue that is related to the course or discussion and ask for feedback.
- Relate how you have applied what you have read, learned or discussed regarding the course to your personal and professional life.
- Share another resource such as Web links, books, etc. that you have used to answer other participants' questions or as you explore the topics of the course, (as it is a violation of copyright law to copy the actual page).

Methods of Instruction

Evaluation and Grading Breakdown:

- Group or Individual Assignment on "Selected White Collar Crimes" list will be provided. Presentation:20 pts
- Film Reviews: (4) 40 pts
- Weekly discussion and reflection 20 pts
- Contemporary Focus Paper on "selected topics" list will be provided. 20 pts

Grading Scale:

A+ 98-100 A 94–97 A-90-93 B+ 87 -89 B 84–86 B- 80–83 C+ 77-79 C 73–76 C-70-72 D+ 67-69 D 60–66 F 00-59

Course Schedule Topic and Reading (may be updated through the semester)

Week 1	Course Review Syllabus Introduction WCC Overview - Definitions	Introduction, Guide to workplace Fraud Friedrichs Ch 1 P&T Intro Film: Catch Me If You Can 2002
Week 2	Crimes Against Consumers	Friedrichs Chapter 2 P&T Ch 2
Week 3	Unsafe Products	Friedrichs Chapter 3 P&T Ch 3 Film: The Insider 1999
Week 4	Environmental Crime	Friedrichs Chapters 4 P&T Ch4 Film: Gasland 2010
Week 5	Crimes By Government and Public Officials	Friedrichs 5 P&T Chapter 6 & 7 Film: American Hustle 2013
Week 6	Securities Fraud	Friedrichs Chapter 6
Week 7	Societal Reaction to Organizational & Corporate Crime	Friedrichs Chapter 7 Film Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room 2005
Week 8	Spring Break	Enjoy!
Week 9 &10	Fiduciary Crime & Medical Crime	P&T Chapter 8, 11 Dodge et al.
Week 11	Computer Crimes	P&T Chapter 12 Hollinger on "my courses" Film: The Defenders 2018
Week 12 & 13	Case Study Presentations	Ch 13
Week 14	Case Study Papers Due 4/28	

Policy on Late Assignments and Missing Assignments:

It is expected that students will complete each weekly module during the designated week on the syllabus. Students may discuss in advance any problems with completing assignments on time. Consideration will be given for reasonable circumstances and an alternative deadline may be agreed to. In all other cases a 2 point reduction may be imposed for each day an assignment is late.

Incomplete Policy

According to the university catalogue, an incomplete may be given only in exceptional circumstances at the instructor's discretion. The student must be passing at the time of the request or be sufficiently close to passing. If the work is not completed within one year of the recording of the incomplete grade, the grade will become an F(I). The incomplete policy for this course is that at least 70% of the course must be already completed and an exceptional circumstance (i.e. medical issue) must exist. If you feel you require an incomplete for an exceptional reason, you need to email me and state your reasons for the incomplete in writing. We will then decide on a course of action.

Student Academic Integrity Policy

All UMass Dartmouth students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and scholarly practice. The University does not tolerate academic dishonesty of any variety, whether as a result of a failure to understand required academic and scholarly procedure or as an act of intentional dishonesty. A student found responsible of academic dishonesty is subject to severe disciplinary action which may include dismissal from the University. The procedure for responding to incidents of academic dishonesty may be found in Section III of this document. You may also refer to the Student Handbook for information about the judicial process. A high standard of academic integrity promotes the pursuit of truth and learning and respect for the intellectual accomplishments of others. These are values that are fundamental to the mission of this University. Such values are undermined by academic dishonesty. Academic freedom is a fundamental right in any institution of higher learning. Honesty and integrity are necessary preconditions of this freedom. Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged and deemed appropriate by the instructor of the course. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses. Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Students are also expected to report incidents of academic dishonesty to the instructor or dean of the instructional unit. The intent of this policy is to make clear the standards of academic integrity at UMass Dartmouth.

*For additional information on violations, infractions, and consequences visit the UMass Dartmouth Student Academic Integrity Policy at the link below.

<http://www.umassd.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/academicregulationsandprocedures/>

Center for Access and Success

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and provide the appropriate paperwork from the Center for Access and Success. The necessary paperwork is obtained when you bring proper documentation to the Center, which is located in Liberal Arts, Room 016; phone: 508.999.8711.

<http://www.umassd.edu/dss/>

Resources

Tutoring: If you are having difficulty with the class please:

- Post a message on the Discussion Board –be sure to use your classmates for troubleshooting and problem solving.
- Make an appointment to come in and meet with me during my office hours.
- Contact the Academic Resource Center (ARC) for support: Academic Resource Center, Liberal Arts –Room7 Phone: 508.999.8708, Fax: 508.910.6404

Technical Help: If you are in need of technical assistance the IT Service Desk is available to students. Claire T. Carney Library, lower level 508.999.8884 (x8884) or Email

Statement Regarding Title IX Information

The purpose of a university is to disseminate information, as well as to explore a universe of ideas, to encourage diverse perspectives and robust expression, and to foster the development of critical and analytical thinking skills. In many classes, including this one, students and faculty examine and analyze challenging and controversial topics. If a topic covered in this class triggers post-traumatic stress or other emotional distress, please discuss the matter with the professor or seek out confidential resources available from the Counseling Center, 508-999-8648 or – 8650 <http://www.umassd.edu/counseling/> or the Victim Advocate in the Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality 508-910-4584, <http://www.umassd.edu/sexualviolence/>.

In an emergency contact the Department of Public Safety at 508-999-9191 24 hrs./day. UMass Dartmouth, following national guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, requires that faculty follow UMass Dartmouth policy as a “mandated reporter” of any disclosure of sexual harassment, abuse, and/or violence shared with the faculty member in person and/or via email. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational abuse, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. While faculty are often able to help students locate appropriate channels of assistance on campus, disclosure by the student to the faculty member requires that the faculty member inform the University’s Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at 508-999-8008 to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, even if the student requests that the disclosure not be shared. For confidential counseling support and assistance, please go to <http://www.umassd.edu/sexualviolence/Classroom>

As the semester progresses, this syllabus will be adjusted to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor when needed.