Corporations and Corruption

SOCIOLOGY 3567-001, Summer 2011

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby
Class Meetings: Monday/Wednesday, 10:45-12:05, BEHS 109
Office Hours: Before/After class and by appointment
Office: 311 BEHS Phone: 581-5842 or 581-6153 (message)
E-Mail: bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu or through the Blackboard Vista mail feature.

Required Text:

1. Objectives
The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of white-collar crime and to utilize a sociological perspective in understanding those problems. We will examine a variety of issues including crimes against consumers, environmental crime, institutional corruption, various types of fraud, computer crime, and crimes by the government and public officials. While some of these issues do not appear to affect us directly in our day-to-day lives, they do have an overall effect on our social world.
By approaching these topics from a sociological perspective, the student will learn to think critically and creatively about why these problems persist in our society and what could be done to manage or solve them.

2. Grading Procedures
The final course grade will be determined by your performance on 2 equally weighted objective type exams, electronic discussion boards, and a semester paper on a topic of the student’s choice, providing it is relevant to the course material and approved by your instructor. There is no comprehensive final exam in this course.
Each exam will be worth 100 points towards your final grade. The paper is worth 50 points, and the discussions are worth 50 points. There are 300 points possible for this course.
Grade Scale:
A = 93-100% or 278-300 points, A- = 90-92% or 269-277 points, B+ = 87-89% or 260-268 points, B = 83-86% or 248-259 points, B- = 80-82% or 239-247 points, C+ = 75-79% or 224-238 points, C = 66-74% or 197-223 points, C- = 60-65% or 179-196 points, D+ = 57-59% or 170-178 points, D = 53-56% or 158-169 points, D- = 50-52% or 149-157 points, E = <49% or 0-148 points.

3. Important Dates:
Exam #1: Wednesday, June 22nd, 2011
Exam #2: Wednesday, August 3rd, 2011  
Papers Due: Wednesday, July 13th, 2011  
Exams will cover material from your text, Power Points, and any other material from the learning modules. Exams will be taken electronically through WebCT and have a time restriction. If you miss an exam, an essay type make-up must be scheduled with the instructor within one week of the regular exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of hospitalization or a death in the immediate family.

4. Paper  
One paper is required in this course. The paper will be written by the student on a topic related to this course that is of interest to the individual student and approved by your instructor. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length and should be well researched using outside resources such as books, articles from peer reviewed journals, and other sources available through the University of Utah libraries. The paper is to be submitted via the “Assignment” function as a MS .doc(x) file attachment or should be pasted directly into the text box available. The paper is due on Wednesday, July 13th, 2011 by 6 PM MDT.

5. Discussions  
There will be 5 electronic discussion boards for students to post comments to during the semester. They will be on various topics that your instructor feels are relevant to this course. The discussions will be due approximately every 2 weeks during the semester.

6. Testing  
Exams in this course will be taken in class on the days indicated above. Any use of electronic devices during an exam will result in a failing grade on that exam.

7. Student Code: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, and in all electronic interactions according to the student code, spelled out in the student handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the code carefully and know they are responsible for the content.

According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the responsibility of the faculty to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Violations of the student code may result in a written warning, dismissal from the class, a failing grade, or dismissal from the university. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavioral Committee.

ADANOTICE: University guidelines for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the following to be included in all syllabi:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternate format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Course Outline and Schedule

Week 1 (May 16 – 20) Introduction to the course and Chapter 1

Week 2 (May 23 – 27) Chapter 2, Discussion #1 is due Friday

Week 3 (May 30 – June 3) Chapter 3

***Memorial Day Holiday, Monday, May 30th, No Classes***
Week 4 (June 6 – 10) Chapter 4, Discussion #2 is due Friday

Week 5 (June 13 – 18) Chapters 5 and 6, Discussion #3 is due Friday

Week 6 (June 20 – 24) Review and Exam #1 on Wednesday, June 22nd

Week 7 (June 27 – July 1) Chapters 7 and 8

Week 8 (July 4 – 8) Chapters 9 and 10, Discussion #4 is due Friday

***Independence Day Holiday, Monday July 4th, No Classes***

Week 9 (July 11 – 15) Chapter 11 and Papers Due Wednesday, July 13th

Week 10 (July 18 – 22) Chapter 12, Discussion #5 is due Friday

***Pioneer Day Holiday, Monday, July 25th, No Classes***

Week 11 (July 25 – 29) Chapter 13 and summary of course

Week 12 (August 1 – 3) Review and Exam #2 on Wednesday, August 3rd