White-Collar Crime  
SOCIOLOGY 3567-001, Fall 2010

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby  
Class Meetings: M/W/F, 10:45 – 11:35 AM, Behs 116  
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:  

This is a lecture format class. While assignments and discussions will be submitted electronically, PPTS and guest presentations will not be posted to WebCT/Blackboard Vista. The class will be structured to encourage active class participation which can be very valuable in the learning process. Attendance in class is expected of each student and should enhance the course experience for each of us.

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.

3. Important Dates:
Exam #1: TBA  
Exam #2: TBA
Papers Due: TBA

Exams will cover material from your text, Power Points, and any other material from the learning modules. 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.

5. Discussions
There will be 5 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.

6. Testing
Exams in this course will be taken in class. There will be a review provided to students approximately one week prior to the exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of hospitalization, serious illness, or a death in the immediate family.

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.

ADA NOTICE: 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.

Note: This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification, particularly when the modification is done to rectify an error which would disadvantage the student.