



CORPORATIONS AND CORRUPTION: WHITE COLLAR CRIME SOCIOLOGY 3567-090, Fall 2013

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby

Class Meetings: This is an Online course

Office Hours: On Campus by Appointment or “Live” Chat by Appointment

Office: 311 BEHS Phone: 581-5842 or 581-6153 (message)

E-Mail: bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu or through the Canvas mail feature.

Required Text:

Profit Without Honor: White Collar Crime and the Looting of America, Rosoff, Pontell, and Tillman, Fifth Edition, Prentice Hall, 2010, ISBN: 978-0-13-515468-7.

System Requirements: This is an online class that can be attended from anywhere there is an internet connection. Assignments and discussions will be submitted electronically. Exams will also be taken electronically via the “Quizzes” function within the course. You must be able to view PowerPoint presentations, as well as have a Media Browser on your system. Students must be able to use an internet browser, send attached files via e-mail, and create text messages.

1. Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of white-collar, corporate, and Government crime. The student will learn 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 students 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: Date TBA

Exam #2: Date TBA

Papers Due: Date TBA

Exams will cover material from your text, Power Points, Online Learning Modules. If you miss an exam, a 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 should be written 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 at least 5 outside resources such as books, articles from peer-reviewed journals, and other sources available through the University of Utah libraries. The paper is due (Date TBA) 6 PM and should be submitted electronically in MS .doc(x) or .rtf format. The paper may be submitted via the “Assignments” function within Canvas or e-mailed to bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu. Late papers will receive significant point reductions.

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. The discussions will be due approximately every 2 - 3 weeks during the semester. Each student is required to post at least once to each discussion to receive credit.

6. Testing

Exams in this course will be taken electronically via the “Quizzes” function on the course homepage on the scheduled day from your course syllabus / schedule. Exams may NOT be retaken. The student will have 45 minutes to complete approximately 50 multiple-choice questions.

*****There is NO comprehensive final exam in this class*****

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. This includes “Online” forums. 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.

Course Outline and Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the course and Chapter 1

Week 2: Chapter 2, Crimes Against Consumers

*****Discussion #1 is due Friday*****

Week 3: Chapter 3, Unsafe Products

Week 4: Chapter 4, Environmental Crime

*****Discussion #2 is due Friday*****

Week 5: Chapter 5, Institutional Corruption: Mass Media and Religion

Week 6: Chapter 6, Securities Fraud

*****Discussion #3 is due Friday*****

Week 7: Review and Exam #1, Date TBA

Week 8: *FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES*****

Week 9: Chapter 7, Corporate Fraud

Week 10: Chapter 8, Fiduciary Fraud

*****Discussion #4 is due Friday*****

Week 11: Chapter 9, Crimes by the Government

Week 12: Chapter 10, Corruption of Public Officials *Paper is due*****

Week 13: Chapter 11, Medical Crime

Week 14: Begin Chapter 12, Computer Crime

*****Thanksgiving Break November 28th and 29th, NO Classes*****

Week 15: Chapters 12 and 13, Computer Crime and Conclusions

*****Discussion #5 is due Friday*****

Week 16: Review, and Exam #2

*****There is NO comprehensive Final Exam in this class*****

*****This is a preliminary syllabus that may be modified prior to classes beginning on August 26, 2013*****