

**Corporations and Corruption:
White-Collar Crime
SOCIOLOGY 3567-090, Summer 2014**

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby
Class Meetings: This is an Online Course
Office Hours: “Virtual” Office Hours and on campus 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. You must also 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 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: Thursday, June 19, 2014

Exam #2: Thursday, July 31, 2014

Papers Due: Thursday, July, 10, 2014

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. Exams will be available from 8:00 AM on the day of the exam until 8 AM the next day. 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) or .pdf file attachment. The paper is due on Thursday, July 10, 2014 by 6 PM MDT.

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 weeks during the semester.

The grading rubric for the discussions is:

10 points: Excellent

7-9 points: Acceptable

4-7 points: Marginal

0 points: Not Submitted

6. Testing

Exams in this course will be taken electronically. Exams will be available for a 24 Hour period. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the exams. Exams may NOT be retaken. Make-up exams will ONLY be allowed in the cases of student hospitalization or a death in the immediate family.

7. Student Code: Per University of Utah regulations (Policy #6-400). "A student who engages in academic misconduct," as defined in Part I,B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, "may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing." Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

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 (May 12 – 16) Introduction to the course and Chapter 1,

Week 2 (May 19 – 23) Chapter 2, (Crimes against Consumers), Discussion #1 is due Friday

Week 3 (May 26 – 30) Chapter 3, (Unsafe Products)

*****Memorial Day Holiday, Monday, May 26th, No Classes*****

**Week 4 (June 2 – 6) Chapter 4, (Environmental Crime),
Discussion #2 is due Friday**

**Week 5 (June 9 – 13) Chapters 5 (Institutional Corruption) and 6 (Mass Media and Religion),
Discussion #3 is due Friday**

Week 6 (June 16 – 20) Review and Exam #1 on Thursday, June 19th

Week 7 (June 23 – June 27) Chapters 7 (Corporate Fraud) and 8 (Fiduciary Fraud)

Week 8 (June 30 - July 4) Chapters 9 (Crimes by the Government) and 10 (Public Officials)

Discussion #4 is due Thursday

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

Week 9 (July 7 - 11) Chapter 11 (Medical Crime)

*****Papers Due Thursday, July 10th*****

Week 10 (July 14 – 18) Chapter 12 (Computer Crime)

Discussion #5 is due Friday

*****Pioneer Day Holiday, Thursday, July 24th, No Classes*****

Week 11 (July 21 – 25) Chapter 13 (Conclusions) and summary of course

Week 12 (July 28 – August 1) Review and Exam #2 on Thursday, July 31st

*****This is a preliminary syllabus only. Some minor changes may be made prior to classes beginning on Monday, May 12, 2014*****