

SYLLABUS FOR WHITE COLLAR CRIME

Term: Spring 2017
Instructor: Mr. Gary Bell
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Office Hours: 6 to 7 pm (by arrangement)

Instructor Background: Diploma: Hammond Gavit High School
Bachelor Arts Degree: University of Michigan
Juris Doctor: Indiana University
Employment: United States Attorney's Office, Hammond, IN

Course Time: Wednesdays 7:00 –10:00p

Course Description: The term "white-collar crime" refers to many different forms of illegal activity. The course will examine how white collar crime is defined and understood in the law and other disciplines; how it is different and similar to other criminal activity; who perpetrates white collar crime; who are its victims; what are the costs of white collar crime and how are these costs measured; and how is it investigated, prosecuted, punished and deterred. The course will feature infamous and newsworthy white collar cases, some local in nature, as well as current events.

Prerequisites: A writing course is strongly recommended before taking this course. A strong desire to learn is needed.

Learning Outcomes/Competencies: As a result of participating in this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the various definitions of white collar crime and distinguish it from other varieties of criminal conduct.
- Examine issues in investigating, prosecuting, defending, punishing and deterring white collar crime.

Reading Materials: (1) *White Collar Crime: The Essentials*, Author Brian K. Payne.
(2) Reading material on various topics will be made available through the Cloud.

Learning Strategies: The class will be taught by blending lectures, discussions, and appropriate reading assignments. We will emphasize current events where appropriate. Class time will be provided to work on the presentation project. At least one guest speaker has been scheduled. It is absolutely vital that you prepare for each class meeting.

Assessment:

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| • Exams (Mid-Term and Final) | 50% of grade |
| • Presentation Project | 25% of grade |
| • News Journal | 15% of grade |
| • Class participation and attendance | 10% of grade |

A. Exams

The required reading from the textbook, reading packet, and material covered during lectures (sometimes this is not tied to reading material) will constitute the largest portion of the body of knowledge for which you will be responsible and on which you will be tested. There will be two exams, worth 25% and 25% of your final grade. **Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up exams.**

B. Course Presentation

You will be assigned a white collar offender to research. You must write a seven to ten page paper with an annotated bibliography and cite to at least 4 resources (you cannot use Wikipedia or similar type websites). You must also prepare a fifteen minute presentation for the class. Additional information on this assignment will be discussed in class. Make sure you understand the **Citation Guidelines** section contained below.

C. News Journal

Each student will keep a weekly "news journal," consisting of an article from a print newspaper or magazine about white-collar crime *and* a written reaction to each article. Articles can deal with any form of white-collar crime (e.g. fraud, corruption, environmental offenses, embezzlement, bribery) and can report on a particular criminal incident, an offender, a criminal trial or other official action, sentencing, etc. The written reaction should include your personal reflections on the crime, tempered by information you have learned in the course. Questions you might want to answer in your reaction include, but are not limited to:

1. What new insights did this article bring to you?
2. How do you rate the severity of the crime?
3. Does the disposition of the crime seem fair?
4. How does this compare to a street crime or to the treatment of street criminals?
5. Does this article confirm or contradict course material? Does it add to it in any way?

Reactions shall be typed, double-spaced, using 12 point font with 1" margins all around. At the top of each reaction, write the date, name and source of the article. Articles and reactions will be turned in at the beginning of each class, and returned by the end of the session. The articles and reactions should then be bound into some type of binder or notebook, in chronological order, with a copy of the article followed immediately by the reaction page for that particular article. At the end of the semester, you will give me the binder or notebook for final review, which means you should have 13 different articles and 13 typed reactions. At each class meeting, we will have a discussion of current events. Students can volunteer to be the correspondent for a given day, but all students will be required to report at least once during the semester.

D. Class Participation and Attendance

Class begins at 7:00 pm sharp! A **mandatory** attendance policy exists for this course. It is essential to attend all classes to do well in this course. Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement the book, not repeat it. Many items will be discussed in class that is not in the book. While students can copy someone's lecture notes, and complete reading assignments, there is no way to gain the information lost by missing class discussions. To receive credit for each class, the student must attend the entire class period. Students will sign an attendance sheet at the end of the class period. I understand that emergencies do

occur, that people get sick, and that sometimes things happen outside of your control that make attending class extremely difficult if not impossible. Under those circumstances, the absences may be approved. Communication with me is the key. **If you miss three or more class sessions, without approval, during the semester you will fail the course.**

Class Policy for Assignments: Students **must** attend class and complete assignments per instructions.

Grading Scale:

A: 92-100	A-: 90-91	B+: 88-89	B: 82-87	B-: 80-81	C+: 78-79
C: 72-77	C-: 70-71	D+: 68-69	D: 62-67	D-: 60-61	F: 59 & below

Class Policy on Electronic Devices: (Cell phones, Smart Phones, Computers, Notebooks...etc.)

All cell phones devices must remain **off** during class sessions. Absolutely no texting or use of cell phone during class. Computers (laptops, notebooks, etc.) are allowed but no connection to the internet is allowed during class.

Course Outline: The midterm test will occur on either the 7th or 8th week of the semester. The date will be provided in the next few weeks. Unannounced quizzes may occur periodically. The course presentations will occur two weeks or three after Spring Week. The date will be announced during the third class session. The Course will attempt to cover the following topics, *always* emphasizing current events:

- An Overview of the Criminal Justice System and Infamous White Collar Criminals
- What is White Collar Crime? Defining it so we can understand it.
 - What criminal activity is excluded by the definition?
 - Types of White Collar Crime.
 - Can White Collar criminals cause physical harm?
 - How White Collar Crime impacts all of us?
 - Myths of White Collar Crime.
 - Differences between White Collar offenders and others.
- Understanding how the Criminal Justice System and Government regulations work
 - The Grand Jury
 - Prosecutorial discretion
 - Indictment
 - Administrative and civil investigations
- Consumer Fraud – How you and I are ripped off everyday
 - Beware of Infomercials
 - “If it is too good to be true,”
 - Nigerian cons
 - Ponzi and Pyramid Schemes

- The Bernie Madoff Affair
 - Identity Theft – Watch out or you will be a victim!
- Investigating White Collar Crime – “It ain’t easy!”
- Medicaid / Medicare Fraud -- That is a lot of money!
- Tax Fraud – You pay taxes on all “income” earned. So, what is income?
- Conspiracy, Perjury and Obstruction of Justice
 - How lying or can get you into trouble. .
 - *United States v. John Burge*
 - *United States v. Nichelle Benford*
- Cheating in a professional sports
 - They lie and break the rules– but are crimes being committed?
- Embezzlement
- Public Corruption
 - How it affects everyone and can ruin a democracy
 - Elected officials, judges and government workers who steal money and honest services
 - Police officers who lie, cheat, steal and murder(?)
- Conflict of Interest
- Corporations harming you and the environment.
- What happens to White Collar Criminals?
 - Serving time for committing white collar crimes.
- Why Do They Do It? The Motives, Mores, and Character of White Collar Criminals.
<http://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1087&context=lawreview>

Class Participation: The most important factor for meaningful classroom participation is reading before class. Preparation enables you to engage with each other and with the instructor in a thoughtful, critical discussion of the questions raised in the readings and by the readings. Accordingly, students must be prepared for class which includes reading the assigned materials. The class participation aspect of your grade will be based on my assessment of whether you are regularly prepared for class and actively engaged in the class discussion.

Center for Academic Excellence:

Tutoring assistance is free to all students of Calumet College of St. Joseph. Call the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE), to make an appointment at 473-4287. The Center has experienced and well-trained tutors in most subject areas to help students who are struggling in a course or who are doing well and would like to do better. Regular weekly tutoring sessions are likely to improve your grade.

Statement of Plagiarism:

If an instructor or other Calumet College of St. Joseph personnel find that a student has plagiarized or been involved in another form of academic dishonesty, the instructor or other personnel may elect to bring the matter up for judicial review. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College. The procedures for judicial review are listed under the section of CCSJ handbook that addresses student grievances. (Academic Planner 2001/2002 p.27)

Citation Guidelines:

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points). In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA (American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may choose to access the following websites:

www.apastyle.org

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa

Further, these guidelines are available in the Calumet College of St. Joseph library, and will show you how to cite references from a variety of sources, including electronic media.

Withdrawal from Classes Policy:

After the last day for class changes has passed (see College calendar), students may withdraw from a course in which they are registered with permission from the faculty member conducting the course. A written request detailing the reason(s) for the withdrawal must be filed with the Registrar. Written request for withdrawal must be received by the Registrar by the last day of classes prior to the final examination dates specified in the catalogue. Written requests may be mailed to the Registrar or faxed to the College fax number 219-473-4259. Students are to make note of the refund schedule when withdrawing from courses. The request is forwarded to the faculty member, who makes the final determination to accept or deny the request. If the request is honored, the student will receive notification of official withdrawal; if denied, the notification will indicate why the withdrawal is disallowed. Note: Degree Completion Division (DCD) students should consult the DCD Student Handbook for information on DCD withdrawals.

An official withdrawal is recorded as a "W" grade on the student's transcript. Dropping a course without written permission automatically incurs an "F" grade for the course (see Refund Schedule).

**Your questions and comments are welcome.
I look forward to many interesting and challenging discussions.**