

AJ 135-WHITE COLLAR CRIME  
Spring 2001--Syllabus

Dr. David Simon

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Hours: M 4:15-5:30  
W 4:15-6

### Required Texts

Kurtz, R. (1993) THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY Second Ed. (Knoxville: Univ. of Tenn. Press), hereafter CC

Simon, David R.(1999) ELITE DEVIANCE. Sixth Edition (Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon); hereafter ED.

Simon, David R.& Frank Hagan(1999) WHITE COLLAR DEVIANCE. (Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon); hereafter WCD.

### Suggested Texts

Coleman, J.W. (1994) THE CRIMINAL ELITE. (ST. MARTINS)

Ermann, M.D. & R. Lundman (Eds.) (1996) CORPORATE & GOVERNMENTAL DEVIANCE 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Oxford)

Fredericks, D.O. (1996) TRUSTED CRIMINALS. (Wadsworth)

Lipson, L. (1993) THE ETHICAL CRISIS OF CIVILIZATION. (Sage)

Messner, F. & R. Rosenfeld (1994) CRIME & THE AMERICAN DREAM (Wadsworth)

Proveda, T.G. (1994) RETHINKING WHITE-COLLAR CRIME (Praeger)

### Introduction

This course is an introduction to the study of white-collar crime. The course also emphasizes the interrelationships between these various types of criminal behavior, as well as the criminal justice's system's response to white-collar offenses. The following are stressed in this course

1. Paradigms for the study of white-collar crime

2. The higher immorality-institutionalized deviant patterns within elite circles
3. The nature and extent of white-collar crime
4. The interrelationships between white-collar crime and other types of crime
5. Corporate offenses
6. Public corruption and scandal
7. Theories of white-collar crime
8. Extant policies and proposed solutions to the problem of white-collar crime

### Logistics

The course grade will be determined by the following set of criteria, each of which will count one-third of the final grade:

1) Critical thinking exercise: content analysis in white-collar crime. (Instructions will be passed out in class and gone over in depth.) Other options will also be considered such as a traditional term paper, or content analysis of media coverage of white-collar crime news.

2) Midterm examination

3) Final examination

The exams will be objective and require the use of Scantron sheets. Review sessions will be held the week before the test.

4) Extra credit: Students wishing to earn extra credit may do a critical review essay on any optional volume or book approved by the instructor. The essay should be five to ten double spaced type written pages, and constitute an analysis of the book. The analysis should be "critical," describing in depth what the reviewer did and did not like about the volume. Further instructions for the review will be discussed in class. Successful completion of the assignment means that if a student is between two grades (e.g., B+/A-) the student will receive the higher of the two marks.

Note to Graduate Students: You will be required to complete two research projects. You may do any of the following:

1. A content analysis on white-collar crime policy,  
and
2. A content analysis on news coverage of white-collar crime.  
Or

1. A content analysis on white-collar crime policy  
and

2. A traditional term paper on some topic related to the course.

Each graduate student is strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss these requirements.

Finally, please note the reading assignments below. I consider the information in the texts a useful guide for students. I assume everyone has read it. This means that I will not merely follow along with the text, but will summarize what you need to know and explore what I believe is significant about the methods and issues we study. I ALSO URGE STUDENTS TO REGULARLY ATTEND CLASS, ESPECIALLY SINCE A LARGE PORTION OF YOUR GRADE DEPENDS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT TAKE ATTENDANCE, AND PLEASE DO NOT CALL ME TO TELL ME YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE IN CLASS. IF YOU MISS CLASS, GET THE NOTES FROM ANOTHER STUDENT, OR COME SEE ME IN AN OFFICE HOUR.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

NOTE: YOUR INSTRUCTOR IS BLESSED\CURSED WITH EXCEPTIONALLY ACUTE HEARING, AND HAS EXTREMELY LOW TOLERANCE OF EXTRANEIOUS NOISE. NO WHISPERING, NOTE PASSING, OR OTHER DISTRACTIVE

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED DURING CLASS LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS. STUDENT CLASS PARTICIPATION IS VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED, AND STUDENT COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. RUDENESS IN THE FORM OF DISRUPTION IS UNFAIR TO BOTH THE INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS DESIRING TO LEARN. IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED, AND THOSE STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO REFRAIN FROM DISRUPTIVE NOISE DURING CLASS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.



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8: CONTEMPORARY CORRUPTION ED, CH. 7; WCD, Ch. 4

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PART III: THE NATURE OF MODERN SCANDAL

9: THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CC, CH. 1  
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10: THE EARLY CRITICS OF THE WARREN COM., CC, CH.2  
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11 CONTEMPORARY CRITICS OF THE WARREN COM., CC, CH.3;  
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12 IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS ON THE JFK ASSASSINATION,  
CC, CH. 4;  
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13 THE WATERGATE SCANDAL CC, CH. 5;

14 IRAN-CONTRA & THE CLINTON ERA SCANDALS; ED, CH. 9;  
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PART IV: THEORY AND POLICY

15 WHITE-COLLAR CRIME THEORY ED, CH.8;

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16 SOLUTIONS/POLICIES ED, EPILOGUE; NW, Ch. 9

**ALL PROJECTS AND OTHER PAPERS DUE ON MONDAY OF**

**THIS WEEK**

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17: FINAL EXAMINATION DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

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