

JS135: White Collar Crime

Danielle A Harris

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am – 11:45pm

Fall 2004, San Jose State University

Contact Details:

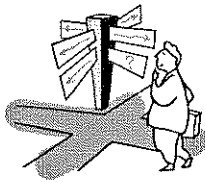
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30pm – 1:30pm or by appointment

Office Location: MH 529

Phone (which I will only be able to answer twice a week): (408) 924 2949

Email (which I very much prefer): danielleharris@gmail.com

Website: TBA



Class Description:

This class explores white-collar crime in the United States from a selection of angles. First, paying particular attention to the definitional difficulties of distinguishing between occupational, corporate, organizational and general white-collar crime we will discuss various types of crime under these 'umbrella terms'. Second, we will explore possible theoretical explanations for one's involvement in such crime. Third, we will discuss the response of the Criminal Justice System to white-collar criminals including the investigation, prosecution, defense and punishment processes. Fourth, we will consider 'special topics' such as the emerging involvement of computers and women in white-collar offending and the specific problems they present. Finally, we will discuss the future of white-collar crime and our response to offending, offenders, victims, regulation, legislation and punishment.



Required Reading:

- Albanese, J. (1995) *White-Collar Crime in America*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Friedrichs, D. (2004) *Trusted Criminals 2nd Edn*, Belmont: Wadsworth.
- JSB135 Fall 2004 Book of Readings available at Maple Press. (individual articles are marked on class schedule with *)

Recommended Reading:

- Rosoff, S., Pontell, H. and Tillman, R. (2004) *Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and the Looting of America 3rd Ed*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Simon, D. and Hagan, F. (1999) *White-Collar Deviance*, Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Simon, D. (2002) *Elite Deviance 7th Ed*, Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Class Objectives:

1. Define 'white collar crime' and distinguish between it and organized crime (which is a separate class), corporate crime, organizational crime and occupational crime.
2. Discuss what constitutes 'crime' in an occupational or corporate context. How does it compare to street crime in terms of seriousness? Is embezzling millions from innocent people worse than murder?
3. Explore various theories and establish a theoretical framework to help define, explain and understand the motives behind white-collar crime.
4. Discuss the processes relevant to identifying and investigating white-collar criminals. How and why do they differ from investigative processes for other crimes? What are the specific difficulties?
5. Consider the adjudicative and correctional processes within the context of white-collar criminals. How and why do they differ from the court processing of 'regular' criminals?

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class, whether they are in class or not. You are advised to make a friend in class who would be willing to share class notes with you and you with them since I will not provide notes to students who miss class.

Absences/Missed Exams:

Only university recognized excuses will be accepted. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illness with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (e.g., field trips, conferences) and participation in official university activities (e.g., athletics). Students will be required to provide written documentation for their absence.

Statement on Classroom Disruptions:

Students are expected to be courteous to others in the class including the instructor. Any student engaged in a disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the class. Examples of disruptive behavior include arriving late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, persisting in speaking without being recognized, the use of cell phones and beepers, use of personal stereo systems, reading outside material, doing crossword puzzles, sleeping and side conversations.

Assessment Deadlines and Make-up Exams

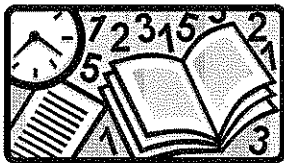
Submission Deadlines for written work and dates and times for examinations are firm. If you do not intend or will be unable to meet said deadline or attend an exam, you must let the instructor know via email **prior to** the deadline or exam. You will have 48 (actual, real time) hours in which to reschedule and the make-up exam must be taken within seven (7) days of the original exam at a time agreed upon by me. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

As the phone in our office is shared between a number of lecturers, I would prefer all communication to occur via email or in person. Please only use the telephone if it is absolutely necessary.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work as your own. This includes copying from sources without citing and claiming someone else's original works or ideas as your own. Copying from another a student is also considered plagiarism.

Please note that violators of the academic integrity policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University.



Assessment: (all written papers should be double spaced, Times New Roman, 12" sized font, default margins etc.)

Examinations (2 x 100 points): each exam will be 40 questions (true/false and multiple choice) scantron graded (80 points) with some short answer/essay questions at the end (20 points).

Homework Questions (5 x 20 points): read the material provided, and answer the questions in one to two pages (double spaced). Use the article to justify your answer.

Theory Paper (1 x 50 points): Write a three to four page paper. We have discussed in class how criminology is most often defined as 'the making of laws, the breaking of laws and society's reaction to the breaking of laws'. Choose a theoretical perspective that you think best describes the motivations for white-collar crime. Demonstrate your understanding by providing a clear overview of the theory in general and then outline what it offers to our understanding of this offense. Use the theory you have selected to discuss how you think society should react to individuals who engage in white-collar crime. How should they be investigated, prosecuted and punished? Be specific in your definition of white-collar crime and detail if there is a specific type of crime that you are considering in your paper.

Film Review (1 x 25 points): Watch one of the films on the provided list. Describe the plot in no more than a paragraph and apply one of the theories you have learnt to explain the character's offending. Use research materials to support your answer (don't forget to cite your sources using APA style referencing). Your document should be no more than six pages when complete.

Presentations (1 x 25 points): Each student will present on a particular type of white collar or corporate crime. These presentations should last no longer than 5 minutes and

will be integrated into the class discussion on each topic. Some kind of visual aide (PowerPoint slides, overhead transparencies or a handout) should be included in your presentation. If you choose a handout, please make sure you provide enough copies for your classmates. You can work alone, in pairs or in groups of three, depending on availability. The sign up sheet will be completed during the first class.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS
NO EXTRA CREDIT
IN THIS COURSE**

Grade Breakdown:

(Fill in your grades so you can keep track of your progress)

<u>Assessment:</u>	<u>your points</u>	<u>total</u>
Presentations	/	25
Exam I (T/F, multi choice 50q)	/	100
HWQ 1 Sutherland and Cressey	/	20
HWQ 2 Cornish and Clarke	/	20
HWQ 3 Sykes and Matza	/	20
HWQ 4 Bonger	/	20
Theory Paper	/	50
HWQ 5 Simpson et al	/	20
Film Review	/	25
Exam II (T/F, multi choice 50q)	/	100
	/	400

grade cutoffs:

- A – 90%+**
- B – 80% - 89%**
- C – 70% - 79%**
- D – 60% - 69%**
- F – less than 60%**

Wk	Date	Class Title	Content	Reading (chapter)	Assessment
1	R Aug 26	Introduction	Syllabus, assessment	Sutherland (1)*	
2	T Aug 31	Definitions	Differentiate WCC, OC, CC give examples	Albanese (1, 2) Friedrichs (1)	
	R Sep 02	“	Issues and difficulties		
3	T Sep 07	Nature and Extent	UCR/NCVS (how we know)	Albanese (6) Friedrichs (2)	
	R Sep 09	“	Effects, case studies		
4	T Sep 14	Types of WCC	Theft /Fraud and Occupational Crime	Albanese (3) Simon and Hagan (5)*	Students will present on particular types of white collar and corporate crimes.
	R Sep 16	“			
5	T Sep 21	“	Public Administration	Albanese (4)	
	R Sep 23	“	Governmental Crime	Friedrichs (5)	
6	T Sep 28	“	Regulatory Offenses	Albanese (5) Simon (5)*	
	R Sep 30	“	Environmental Crime	Rosoff, et al (4)*	
7	T Oct 05	“	High Tech / Computer Crime	NW3C (handouts) (x3)* Friedrichs (pp 184-190)	
	R Oct 07	Review/Questions			
8	T Oct 12	EXAM I		<i>Everything so far</i>	Exam I
	R Oct 14	Theory	General background	Albanese (7) Friedrichs (8)	
9	T Oct 19	“	Class/pos/rational choice	Cornish and Clarke*	HWQ 1
	R Oct 21	“	Soc Process/learning	Sutherland and Cressey* Sutherland (4)*	HWQ 2
10	T Oct 26	“	Soc Learning continued	Sykes and Matza*	HWQ 3
	R Oct 28				
11	T Nov 02	“	Strain/Conflict	Messner and Rosenfeld* Bonger*	HWQ 4
	R Nov 04	“	Review, compare/contrast and digest theories		Theory Paper
12	T Nov 09	CJS Response	Investigation/policing	Albanese (8) Friedrichs (10)	
	R Nov 11	“			
13	T Nov 16	“	Prosecution/Defense	Friedrichs (11)	HWQ 5
	R Nov 18	“			
14	T Nov 23	“	Punishment/Regulation	Albanese (9)	
	R Nov 25	THANKSGIVING			
15	T Nov 30	“	Reintegrative Shaming	Simpson et al (8)* Braithwaite (9)*	
	R Dec 02	Special Problems	Women and WCC	Albanese (10) Davies (handout)* Haantz (handout)*	Film Review
16	T Dec 07	Conclusions	Making sense of what we know and the future of WCC	Albanese (12) Friedrichs (12)	
	R Dec 09	Review/Questions			
	TBA	EXAM II		<i>Everything since exam I</i>	Exam II