

AJ 135 White Collar Crime

Spring 2004 Term (MW, 0900-1015hrs., MH 520)

Course Coverage:

This course covers a variety of topics as well as the theories suggested for understanding white collar crime. The topics are many and diverse – like the counterfeiting of drugs, the adulteration of spices to the re-cycling of computers in an environmentally jeopardizing ways. The diversity has also created a wealth of new investigation careers as agencies direct their attention to the wrongs occurring in society. The degree of gain and loss from white collar crime is also broad and grabbing attention, such as what occurred in the recent ENRON Case. So, many topics are covered and some detail will be provided.

Classroom:

MH 520. Class Code Number 20091.MW @ 0900-1015 hrs.

Instructor:

Peter Charles Unsinger. Has a background both at municipal and county level law enforcement. Also, has worked closely with a national (Australian Federal Police) and state level (Northern Territory and New South Wales) on some aspects of white collar crime. In the non-official aspects of law enforcement in the white collar crime sector has been work done with the International Chamber of Commerce's Counterfeit Investigation Bureau in the Commercial Crimes Section (London). That work also included working with the International Maritime Bureau. The work involved investigations in such diverse settings as Taiwan, Philippines and Korea.

One major research project published by the ICC where the instructor's work was used was the Study and Guide to Conducting Business in the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the USSR).

Office and Hours:

MH 521. Office hours are MW @ 0800-0900 hours and TTh @ 0800-0930 hrs. Office phone is 408 924 1350. Fax is 408 924 2953. E-mail is unsinger@email.sjsu.edu. Caution is suggested in using any of these forms of communications. Instructor is usually only checking on these during office hours. If you must miss a class or exam, do not leave a phone message.

Textbook:

There is no textbook that covers the vastness of what is called white collar crime. Many are simply Marxist diatribes or anti-capitalism tenors. Therefore, none is recommended. There are many good books and these should be consulted. They can usually be found in the university as well as other local libraries.

Besides the wealth of books out there that should be consulted, students should use their computer and the search engines to their advantage. There are many business news sites

that carry stories of white collar crime. For instance, the BBC is an excellent source and hardly a day passes with some story of skullduggery being committed.

A simple daily monitoring of a news site will provide a wealth of examples in varying detail.

Another problem posed by assigning a book is the feeling one should be tested on it for reading comprehension and retention – two measures that have little or no usefulness in moving into research or the majority of practical aspects of the work. It lacks the elements that make for an analytical and functioning practitioner or scholar.

So, use your library and computer to provide information useful for examinations, etc.

Team efforts allow for greater depth and breadth in information gathering. You are encouraged to do cooperate with one another.

Course Requirements:

There are three examinations at roughly equal points in the course (60%). There is also a paper (25%) on some aspect of white collar crime. Lastly, the student will be asked to develop a power point presentation (15%) on an aspect, a case, individual, etc., in white collar crime. The choice of topics, paper and power point, is left solely to the student doing the work. Two key terms you might want to keep in mind when developing a paper or power point is thoroughness and topic difficulty. No two can be graded exactly alike because of differences in these elements.

The idea that somehow in a real world you have the luxury of fifteen weeks to research and write up your findings is one you must dispel from your thoughts. Often time is a luxury. So, the paper and the power point presentation will be due early than the “end of term.” Apportion your time and efforts accordingly.

Grading and Course Workload:

There are three exams (60%), a paper (25%) and a power point presentation (15%). The points will be totaled and placed in descending order and grades assigned to the percentile level given directly below. It is a rough application as circumstances may indicate more or less being assigned to a grade category.

San Jose State University has the following grade criteria: A = EXCELLENT (top 5-10% of a group), B = ABOVE AVERAGE (the next 10-15% of the group), C = AVERAGE (the bulk of the group) and the grades of D and F that relate to those who do not master the knowledge, skill and ability aspects of exams, paper or power point in sufficient a manner to qualify for AVERAGE.

The instructor has some discretion to move the percentages up or down. This will depend on the closeness of clusters. Grades are assigned if natural clusters appear. On occasion arbitrariness is required.

Turn in Assignments Late and Miss Exams?

Instructor has no problem with either receiving assignments late or giving make-up exams. However, that's not how the real world works. It works on matters being done at assigned times. So, any work late or made up exam costs 10 points (that could be a lower grade in some instances). So, best advice is to turn materials in on time and make exams at the assigned time.

Slide and Video Presentations:

All lecture topics have been put together using the Power Point computer application. The photographs are drawn primarily from news sources found on the internet and from personal collection from work and associations.

The BBC is an excellent source for stories and photographs. Because of time, the quick development of sources is recommended.

Videos are commercially available.

Missed class and you want to borrow them? Purge that thought from you mind!

Safety Issues:

There are several safety issues to be discussed.

Schedule:

2 February Course Introduction. Grading criteria explained. Slide Presentation: "Introduction."

4 February Slide Presentation: Power Point Presentations (Principles, Examples and Ranking Methods). This is where everything you wanted to know about Power Point and the assignment is explained.

9 February Slide Presentation: "Money Laundering."

11 February Slide Presentation: "Banking."

16 February continuation of above

18 February video on BCCI

23 February Slide Presentation: "Currency Manipulation."

25 February Slide Presentation: "Stocks, Commodities and Bonds."

1 March Video "Bigger than ENRON" or "The Wall Street Fix."

3 March First Examination. Bring Blue Book

8 March Slide Presentation: "Cartels, Monopolies, Price Fixing."

10 March Video from Frontline "Diamond Cartel."

15 March Slide Presentation: "Adulteration, Compounding, Switching."

17 March Video "Danger on Our Plates."

22 March Slide Presentation: "Environmental Crimes" and "Whistle Blowing."

24 March Slide Presentation: "Corruption and Political Corruption."

5 April Video: "Murder, Money and Mexico." (Frontline)

7 April Slide Presentation: "Counterfeit Drugs and Medical Frauds."

12 April Video: "~~Bad Medicine.~~" (Instructor is in Singapore at AVSEC2004 presenting paper on counterfeit aircraft parts and aviation related products)

~~14 April Video: "Buyer Beware: Counterfeit." (Instructor is in Singapore at AVSEC2004 presenting paper on counterfeit aircraft parts and aviation related products)~~

19 April Second Examination. Bring Blue Book. Paper due. Place in 8.5x11 envelope.

21 April Slide Presentation: "Military Procurement."

26 April Video: "Crime in Cyberspace."

28 April Slide Presentation: "Arms Sales"

3 May Video: "Casualty Phobia."

5 May Slide Presentation: "Sanctions."

10 May Video: "Hacker."

12 May Slide Presentation: "Dumping/Grey Marketing."

17 May Video: "Stolen Identities."

21 May @0715 hrs Third Examination. Bring Blue Book.

Study Guide:

There are a multitude of sources useful to you in your study of the subject matter. All of these should be explored and utilized when the opportunity presents itself.

- (1) The lectures themselves provide many clues for studying the subject. Names, events, groups, concepts and many other terms are used. So, use your notes as a starting point.
- (2) There's a source often over looked. That's your TV. Programs on the History, PBS and other channels/programs offer many in-depth studies on the subject matter. Your public library may even have some from past programming.
- (3) We all know books can be an excellent source of information. The library is a good source and even some second hand bookstores can prove valuable. Even on-line book sellers such as Amazon.com provide synopsis of good books on many of the topics and subjects mentioned in lecture.
- (4) There are also many knowledgeable people that might be available to you. Asking them what they know about this person, about that topic, that event may open to you a good deal of information, some based on experience.
- (5) Another source of good information is on your internet. There are literally hundreds of the world's newspapers there. One can read the London Times, Sydney Morning Herald and the Singapore's Straits Times, to name just three.
- (6) Lastly, there is your computer to its fullest. The search engines are well known and range from Yahoo to Google. Using the topics, names, events, and other pieces of information gleaned from class and other sources, see what is available on the internet.

Combining these sources together, you should be "well armed" to tackle an essay exam question.

Outline the answer you want to make. Plug in the material gleaned from your sources at the appropriate places. Either foot/end note them or learn to incorporate your sources directly into your essay. An example of incorporation might be: "According to California's Dept. of Justice definition from their website...", or "as pointed out in..." or "My uncle Willis, a Detroit policeman then says..."

The nature of the course.

The course of study you are about to embark upon is strewn with some possible controversy. Event, groups and those actors influencing them require some interpretation. Often those interpretations may not fully agree with your viewpoint. There may be verbal explanations that you take as offensive. You must remember that while your views are yours and dear to you, not everyone holds the same views. And more importantly, no intent to hurt is present.

