

JS135: White Collar Crime

Danielle A Harris

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00pm – 4:15pm

SUMMER SESSION 2005, San Jose State University – Room: TBA

Contact Details:

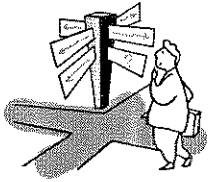
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 pm or by appointment

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.
- JSB135 Spring 2005 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. (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:

Attendance is mandatory for the summer session. A single undocumented absence will result in a grade of 'F'. Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Participation is encouraged.

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

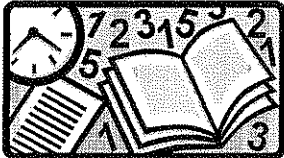
Submission Deadlines for written work and dates and times for examinations are firm. If you do not intend or will be unable to meet said deadline or attend an exam, you must let the instructor know via email **prior** to the deadline or exam. You will have 48 (actual, real time) hours in which to reschedule 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.

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 (30 %): each exam will be 40 questions (true/false and multiple choice, scantron graded) with some short answer/essay questions at the end.

Theory Paper (30 %): 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 the specific type of crime if relevant.

Presentations and Participation (10%): 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.

Maintenance Quizzes (30%): Students will be given a quiz at the beginning of each class to test knowledge of material covered in the previous class. The quiz will include true/false, multiple choice and short answer questions.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE

Date	Class Title	Content	Reading (chapter)	Assessment
June 20	Introduction (Definitions)	Syllabus, assessment, Differentiate WCC, OC, CC give examples, definitions, Issues and difficulties	Sutherland (1)* Albanese (1, 2)	
June 22	Introduction (Nature & Extent)	UCR/NCVS (how we know) Effects, case studies	Albanese (6) Crime in the suites video	QUIZ 1
June 27	Types of WCC	Theft /Fraud and Occupational Crime High Tech/computer crime	Albanese (3) Simon and Hagan (5)* Albanese (4) NW3C (handouts)*	QUIZ 2 Student present'ns
June 29	Types of WCC (cont'd)	Public Administration Governmental Crime Regulatory Offenses Environmental crime	Dangerous business video Albanese (5) Simon (5)* Rosoff et al (4)*	QUIZ 3 Student present'ns
July 6	Theory	Classical School Rational Choice Social process Social learning	Albanese (7) Cornish and Clarke* Sutherland and Cressey* Sutherland (4)* Sykes and Matza*	QUIZ 4
July 11	Theory (cont'd)	Strain Theory/Merton American Dream Conflict/Critical Theory	Messner and Rosenfeld* Bonger*	QUIZ 5
July 13	CJS Response	Investigation/policing	Albanese (8) Identity theft video	QUIZ 6 Theory paper due
July 18	CJS Response (cont'd)	Prosecution/Defense		
July 20	CJS Response (cont'd)	Punishment Regulation Reintegrative Shaming	Albanese (9) Simpson et al (8)* Braithwaite (9)*	QUIZ 7
July 25	Conclusions and Review session	Women and WCC Exam review	Albanese (10) Davies (handout)* Haantz (handout)*	
July 27	FINAL EXAM			