

**CRM 310**  
**White Collar Crime**  
**Fall 2014: M&W 2:00–3:15**

Instructor: Dr. Mike Maume [maume@uncw.edu](mailto:maume@uncw.edu)  
Office: Bear 120 / Posted hours: MW 3:35-4:45

Course Description

"I made the tragic mistake of trying to change the way money was managed and was successful at the start, but lost my way after a while and refused to admit that I failed."  
-- Bernard Madoff, Inmate #61727-054, Butner (NC) Federal Prison

In this course we will explore the nature and varieties of white collar crime, ranging from occupational deviance to governmental crimes. Both the deviant and criminal aspects of these violations will be discussed. Students will also discuss the detection, prosecution, and punishment of offenders and the characteristics of the agencies tasked with these duties.

Course Objectives

- Develop a critical understanding of definitions and varieties of white collar crime, including occupational crime, corporate crime, governmental crime, state-corporate crime and political crime.
- Appreciate the consequences and extensive damage resulting from white collar crime to individuals, society, the economic system and the social fabric.
- Understand some of the causes of white collar crime.
- Learn about the role of law, policing and prosecution of white collar cases, and limits on the control of white collar crime.

Course Requirements

*1. Attendance and Participation*

You are expected to attend and be prepared for each class session, but will not be graded on your attendance. While there will be overlap between class lectures/discussion and the required reading, the information provided in class will often expand on, or be supplementary to, reading assignments. Therefore, it is important for you to take notes in class.

Our class time will be spent discussing the assigned material and related topics, so it is essential that you follow instructions for class preparation each week. Discussions are conversations with a purpose, and the purpose of our discussions will be to meet the course objectives.

*A Note on Civility*

While individuals have a general right to pose questions, to respond to questions, and to make statements, these rights do have limits. Civil discourse is always expected from each member of the class. During any exchange, please be respectful no matter how much you might disagree with the content of the question, statement, or discussion. You will be exposed to a number of ideas, arguments, and discussions that you might not agree with or respect. That is the nature of academic life. However, it is essential that emotions be kept in check and that respect for every individual in the class is maintained at all times. Please feel free to contact me outside of class to voice any political or ideological objections to the content of the course.

*How to Participate in a Discussion*

- Seek the best answers rather than trying to convince other people.
- Try not to let your previous ideas or prejudices interfere with your freedom of thinking.

- Speak whenever you wish (if you are not interrupting someone else, of course), even though your ideas may seem incomplete.
- Practice listening by trying to formulate in your own words the point that the previous speaker made before adding your own contribution.
- Avoid disrupting the flow of thought by introducing new issues; instead, wait until the present topic reaches its natural end; if you wish to introduce a new topic, warn the group that what you are about to say will address a new topic and that you are willing to wait to introduce it until people are finished commenting on the current topic.
- Stick to the subject and talk briefly.
- Avoid long stories or anecdotes.
- Give encouragement and approval to others.
- Seek out the differences of opinion; they enrich the discussion.
- Be sympathetic and understanding of other people's views.

## 2. Assignments

### a. Individual assignments (9 x 5 pts. = 45 pts. [25% of final grade])

You will be asked to complete short (1-3 pages) writing assignments that will serve as the basis for classroom discussion and to help prepare you for exams. These assignments will be handed out in class and will be due the following Monday (except for exam weeks and holidays).

### b. Group research project (55 pts. [30%])

You will be randomly assigned to a working group within which you will complete a research project on a topic related to white collar crime. The project will entail both written and video documentary components. The assignment will be distributed as a separate handout.

### c. Exams (80 pts. [45%])

The required reading in the textbook and lecture 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 three equivalently-weighted exams. The final exam is not comprehensive. The exams will be multiple-choice and short-essay format.

I take examinations very seriously. Deadlines may only be missed for excusable and documented reasons, such as death (your own or an immediate family member's), severe illness, or incarceration. In lieu of these extreme circumstances, in order to arrange an extension you must contact me via e-mail at least 24 hours prior to the exam. Students with acceptable excuses will be allowed a suitable timeframe for completion to be determined mutually by the student and the instructor.

## Grading

Grades will be posted on the course website using the "My Grades" link in Blackboard. Final grades are based on the percentage earned out of 180 possible points.

A 94%-100%	B+ 87% - 89%	C+ 77% - 79%	D+ 67% - 69%	F < 60%
A- 90%- 93%	B 83% - 86%	C 73% - 76%	D 63% - 66%	
	B- 80% - 82%	C- 70% - 72%	D- 60% - 62%	

## Required Reading

Friedrichs, D. 2010. *Trusted Criminals: White Collar Crime in Contemporary Society*, 4/e. Wadsworth.

- Note that additional readings and materials will be added. You are responsible for and will be tested on any assigned material, whether or not we discuss it in class.

## Calendar of Assignments

8/20

Introductions

8/25 and 8/27

The Problem of White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 1

Labor Day (No class Mon. 9/1)

9/3

Nature, Extent and Study of White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 2; ADM case study

9/8 and 9/10

Corporate Crime and Deviance – Read: Chapter 3

9/15 and 9/17

Occupational Crime – Read: Chapter 4

Exam 1: 9/15

9/22 and 9/24

Political Crime – Read: Chapter 5

9/29 and 10/1

State-Corporate Crime – Read: Chapter 6; Paducah case study

10/6 and 10/8

Integrative White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 7

Team Project Prospectus Due 10/8

FALL BREAK (10/13-10/14)

10/15

Integrative White Collar Crime

10/20 and 10/22

Explaining White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 8

10/27 and 10/29

Law and Social Control – Read: Chapter 9; Holder memo

Exam 2: 10/29

11/3 and 11/5

Policing White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 10

11/10 and 11/12

Prosecuting White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 11; Sarageldin case study

11/17 – 11/24

Reacting to White Collar Crime – Read: Chapter 12

Thanksgiving Break (No class Wed. 11/26)

12/1 and 12/3

Group film presentations

Group research projects due Thursday, 12/4, 4:30 PM (Bear 120)

Final Exam Wed., 12/10 3–6 pm

### Syllabus Changes

I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus and/or the course requirements. Announcements will be made online (on the website and/or via e-mail) concerning any changes. These changes will be made in advance of any exam, and will generally be made to the benefit of the class as a whole.

### Disability-Based Accommodations

Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me. Additionally, students will need to contact Disability Services in DePaolo Hall (<http://www.uncw.edu/disability/>).

### Course Expectations

#### **What you may expect of me:**

- ❑ A sincere effort to help you learn the course material.
- ❑ Accessibility: I will be available to you should you desire help or clarification on course material. Although I may be unavailable at the time you initially e-mail me, I will get back to you as soon as possible. **Please note that I work on a Monday-to-Friday schedule. I like to enjoy my weekends too!**
- ❑ Courtesy: I will never ridicule you or express disagreement with you in an impolite fashion.
- ❑ Fairness: Your grade will be based upon what I detect that you have learned and the effort you have put into the course. It will not be based upon any purely personal consideration or by whether you and I agree about an issue. I am willing to explain my reasoning in evaluating your progress, but I will not negotiate grades.
- ❑ Honesty: When I'm expressing to you the facts as social science methods reveal them, I will do so as accurately as I'm able. When expressing my personal opinion, I won't pass it off as the one and only objective "truth." And when I don't know the answer to your question, I'll indicate as much.

#### **What I will expect of you:**

- ❑ A sincere effort to learn the course material.
- ❑ Careful and complete reading of the course material and correspondence with others.
- ❑ Attention/Courtesy: just as I will not be inattentive or impolite to you, I will not tolerate insults or rudeness to me. Further, as noted in "Note on Civility" above, you are expected to respect the views of others in the class. This means that you are free to disagree with them - you are encouraged to do so - but abusive language or any other means of "flaming" or "silencing" another student will not be tolerated.
  - Laptop and notebook computers are prohibited; cell phones should be silenced during class.
- ❑ Promptness: You should be in class on time except when delayed by an emergency, and you should comply with all due dates.
- ❑ Honesty: Assignments that borrow from others without proper acknowledgment and citation will result in a minimum grade of F on the assignment, and at maximum will result in a grade of F in the course and a referral to the Dean of Students. Thus, you should make every effort to familiarize yourself with the various forms of misconduct and dishonesty listed in the Academic Honor Code: ignorance is not an excuse!

**Your questions and comments are welcome.**

**I look forward to many interesting and challenging discussions.**

*In accordance with S.L. 2010-211, you are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances per academic year. You must inform me in writing the first week of class if you will be missing any classes due to religious observance and using one of the two permissible absences for the academic year. In addition, please inform the Registrar the first week of class who will then confirm your intentions to miss class with the impacted course instructors. Any absence for religious purposes will be considered unexcused unless you submit the request in writing the first week to both me and the Registrar.*