CCJS 418K

Seminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice: Understanding and Controlling Crimes by Business

Course Meets: M 4-6:45
Professor Sally S. Simpson
Course Location: Key 0120
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30;
Wednesday 11-12 or by appointment
Fall Semester, 2013
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Course Description: In the wake of the recent global financial meltdown, there is intense interest in and speculation about whether and how business crime contributed to the crisis. This course is thematically organized around the theme of economic crisis and business crime—causes and effects. In addition, the course will highlight similarities and differences between crimes by business (suite) and traditional crime (street); how crimes are counted and measured, the extent and pervasiveness of offending, conceptualization (theorizing), and strategies for control and prevention.

Prerequisites: CCJS100, CCJS105, and CCJS200.

Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented physical or learning disability, I am willing to make the necessary accommodations. If this is the case, please let me know your needs by September 16th and we can discuss the best way in which to handle your specific situation. If you need test accommodations, I will need the testing form 1 week before each exam in order to get the exam to DSS in a timely manner. I am unable to accommodate students who are not registered with Disability Support Services or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS.

Academic Integrity
All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, passing other’s work off as your own (e.g., buying or downloading papers or reports), cheating on examinations, submitting fraudulent documents or forged signatures, and so forth will not be tolerated. Students who violate these standards will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Please
refer to the Code of Student Conduct in the current edition of the Undergraduate Catalog for additional information.

Inclement Weather Policy
On occasion, classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the University is closed on the day a midterm exam is scheduled or an assignment is due, the exam will be scheduled the next class meeting in which the University is open. Assignments will be due the next day that the University is open (turned into my mailbox in 2220 LeFrak Hall by close of business). If a final exam is cancelled, we will follow University rules for rescheduling.

Course Requirements and Expectations
The course is designed to simulate a capstone course, with a strong emphasis on student engagement and discussion. Because the course meets only once per week, each meeting will be segmented into lecture and discussion periods.

I expect the classroom environment to be intellectually stimulating and respectful. Disruptive students who demonstrate a lack of respect for others will not be tolerated. Students unable to show civility with one another or to me may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. All are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

Disrespect and disruptions can also occur through the inappropriate use of technology. Cell phones should be silenced during class and put away. Laptop computers are allowed in this class solely for note-taking. If a student is found to be using personal technology devices in any way that is not specifically related to the day’s class discussion, s/he will be referred to the CCJS Director of Undergraduate Programs. A second offense may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct for violating course policy on the use of personal computers in the classroom.

Attendance.
Students are expected to attend class, keep up-to-date on reading materials and assignments, and participate in all class activities. Students who miss class due to illness or medical necessity will provide a self-excusal note for the absence upon return to class. This note should explain the reason for the absence and acknowledge that the information provided is accurate. I will accept one self-excusal, but any subsequent absences must be excused by written documentation from a health care provider.
Examinations. There are two examinations schedule for this course, one midterm and one non-comprehensive final. Each exam will be essay in format. Questions for the exams will be drawn from both required reading and lecture materials.

Presentation and Paper. All students are expected to write a term paper in which they focus on a particular type of business crime, tie it specifically to arguments about economic crisis, and identify strategies for effective crime prevention and control. In consultation with the instructor, the student will prepare an in-class presentation on this topic and final paper (14-15 typewritten pages, including references). The presentation will be scheduled to correspond with relevant lecture materials (between October and December). The final paper will be due the last day the class meets (December 9th). These requirements will be discussed further during the first class meeting.

Extra-Credit. Students can choose to write a critical review of a scholarly article. The article must cover some aspect of business crime; be selected from a peer reviewed journal; and have the approval of the instructor. Reviews should be no longer than 2 pages in length (typed and double spaced). To receive credit, both the review and a copy of the article must be submitted to the instructor no later than October 28th. If students elect not to participate in the extra-credit option by the required due date, there will be no option to do so.

Make-up policy. There are a limited number of circumstances under which major graded scheduled events (i.e., exams, in-class presentation, and paper) can be made up: (1) serious illness, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) religious holiday observance, (4) participation in University activities at the request of university authorities, and (5) circumstances beyond the student’s control. Advanced notice is required (i.e., prior to missing a class or an exam). Notify me, via e-mail or telephone message except in the case of religious observance. Notice of religious observance conflicts must be given no later than the second class meeting (September 16). Official documentation from a health care professional is also required and must be provided no later than the first day of class upon your return if not sooner.

Final Grades. The midterm and final exams are worth 100 points each. The in-class presentation (50 points) and related paper (100 points) sum to a total of 150 points. Class participation adds another 25 points. The total number of points for the class is 375.
Exams 200 points
Presentation 50 points
Participation 25 points
Paper 100 points

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375 Total Points

Extra-credit 10 points maximum (added to your total points)
Final grades will be calculated on a percentage basis. Students receiving 95 percent or greater of 375 points (356+) will receive an “A+”; 90-94% (338-355) will receive an “A”; 88-89% (330-337) will receive an “A-“; 85-87% (319-329) will receive a “B+”; 80-84% (300-318) will receive a “B”; 78-79 percent (293-299) will receive a “B-”; 75-77% (281-292) will receive a “C+”; 70-74% (267-280) will receive a “C”; 68-69 percent (255-266) will receive a “C-“; 65-67% (244-254) will receive a “D+”; 60-64% (225-243) will receive a “D”; 58-59% (218-224) will receive a “D-“; Less than 58 percent (217 and below) will receive an “F”.

Required Readings
Your course texts can be purchased new or used at the University Book Center or Maryland Book Exchange. If you purchase the book from a different vendor, be certain that you obtain the appropriate volume.

- Select readings from the book, Economic Crisis and Crime. Mathieu Deflem (Editor). Emerald Publishing. (2011) are also required. The book is available for purchase for students who prefer to own the book, but specific readings will be made available as pdf files via ELMS.
- Additional required readings will be available as pdf files via ELMS.
The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

**Course Evaluation**

Your feedback about this course is very important to me. During the course of the semester, I will solicit student feedback regard course readings, exams, and other requirements. Online evaluations will be available at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Fall 2013 courses beginning November. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations. Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access the posted results via Testudo's CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.

**Important Dates**

1\textsuperscript{st} Midterm: Monday, October 14th  
Extra-Credit review due: October 28\textsuperscript{th}, (end of class)  
Term Paper due: December 9\textsuperscript{th} (end of class)  
Final Exam: TBA
Course Outline

Week 1 (September 9)
I. Introduction to Course (review of syllabus, student requirements)
   A. Economic Crisis and Crime.
   B. Distinguishing traditional from white-collar crime.
   C. What do we mean by Business Crime?

Reading: Deflem, Introduction; Shover and Hochstetler, Chapter 1; Cullen et al., Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2 (September 16)
II. The Social Movement(s) Against White Collar Crime
Reading: Cullen et al, Chapter 3

Week 3 (September 23)
III. Measuring and counting business crimes
IV. Theoretical Perspectives
Reading: Shover and Hochstetler, Chapters 2-6; Gibbs and Simpson (2008) “Measuring Corporate Environmental Crime,” pdf file uploaded in ELMS.

Week 4 (September 30)
IV. Measurement and Perspectives, Continued.
Reading: Shover and Hochstetler, Chapter 7; Part II in Deflem (87-142).

Week 5 (October 7)
V. Collateral Consequences of Business Crimes.
Reading: Deflem, Part III (145-2012)

Week 6 (October 14)
Midterm Examination

Week 7 (October 21)
VI. Applying the Perspective: Crime types (Mortgage Fraud)
Reading: Deflem, Part I (3-84)
Week 8 (October 28)
VI. Cooking the Books and Other Frauds
Streaming Video, “Smartest Guys in the Room”
Extra-Credit review due, end of day.

Week 9 (November 4)
VII. Violence
A. Dangerous Products
Reading: Cullen, et al (Cullen et al., chapters 4-5)

Week 10 (November 11)
B. Environmental Pollution, Environmental Justice

Week 11 (November 18)
C. Unsafe work conditions—Continuity from the U.S. to LDC’s.

Week 12 (November 25)
VIII. Crime Prevention and Control
A. Command and Control Approaches
Reading: Cullen et al., Chapters 6-8

Week 13 (December 2)
B. Business Self-Regulation
C. Responsive Regulation and the Enforcement Pyramid

Week 14 (December 9)
Papers due, no later than end of class.
VII. Summing Up and Review
No Reading

***********************FINAL EXAM***********************