

CCJS 453: White-Collar and Organized Crime

Fall 2026



Instructor: Jim Trusty
Email: jtrusty@ifrahlaw.com
Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Classroom: TBD

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text: Stephen Rosoff, Henry Pontell & Robert Tillman, *Profit Without Honor*, ISBN: 978-0133008500

Additional readings will be added to ELMS periodically to prepare you for class discussion. Students will be given at least one week's notice when additional readings are added.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is devoted to examining the nature of white collar (economic) crimes, including (1) crimes committed by public officials, (2) crimes committed by private citizens, (3) crimes against businesses, (4) crimes against investors, (5) crimes

victimizing consumers, (6) crimes against employees, and (7) crimes affecting public health. We also examine theories of causation – why individuals commit white collar crimes, and we will discuss a number of high-profile cases throughout recent history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Understand the history of white-collar crime and organized crime prosecution.
- 2) Define white-collar crime and organized crime.
- 3) Discuss conventional and evolving views of white-collar crime causation.
- 4) Identify links and trends relating to organized criminals engaging in white-collar crime.
- 5) Understand the challenges of prosecuting white-collar criminals.
- 6) Discuss the policing of various types of white-collar and organized crimes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

For this course, students will be expected to attend all class sessions and actively participate. There are several additional requirements that must be fulfilled to be successful in this course.

Course Participation:

Course Lectures, Readings and Quizzes: All course lecture outlines will be available on the ELMS website. Students will be expected to listen to lectures and complete all additional reading assignments *before* that week's class. Cases that are required reading will be posted on ELMS as well, as PDFs. There will be occasional 5-10 question quizzes in class, based upon the material you read before class and the previous lectures.

Papers: During the semester there will be either one or two paper assignments.

Quizzes: Expect one or two brief quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will contribute to your eventual grade, but they are largely diagnostic for me to know how well the class is following the discussions.

Exams: There will be two exams (which will collectively make up 50% of your grade). These exams will not be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice and short essay(s) questions. The exams will cover assigned material presented in lectures, readings, and class discussion. Students will take all exams in class. Students must be present in class to receive credit for the exam. Exams will be closed-book, except to the extent that materials are provided for either reference or analysis.

COURSE GRADES:

Grades shall be determined as follows:

Exams	50%
Class Participation	25%
Quizzes	15%
Papers	10%
TOTAL:	100%

Grade Distribution

A+: 97% to 100%	B-: 82% to 80%	D: 66% to 63%
A: 96% to 93%	C+: 79% to 77%	D: 62% to 60%
A-: 92% to 90%	C: 76% to 73%	F: < 60%
B+: 89% to 87%	C-: 72% to 70%	
B: 86% to 83%	D+: 69% to 67%	

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Opportunities to make-up missed in-class work will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. Exams and assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's

note, death in the immediate family, required school activities, and required court appearance. If a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. I must be notified in person or by phone or email PRIOR to missing an in-class assignment for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you know you will not be in class for in-class work or a date an assignment is due for an excused reason it is your responsibility to turn in the work PRIOR to the due date unless I agree to other arrangements.

Grade Disputes

All grades will be posted on ELMS. If you have any concerns or issues regarding a grade and would like to discuss it with me or have it reviewed please contact me within 48 hours of receiving the grade. I will not discuss grade disputes after this time.

I understand that sometimes, for various reasons, material can prove challenging. Should you feel overwhelmed, frustrated, or simply worried that your grades are suffering please contact me. It is better to tackle the problem at the earliest possible moment and find a solution that will most benefit you.

Classroom Code of Conduct

It is important for both instructor and student to promote a positive atmosphere and spirit of learning--therefore disruptive behavior will not be accepted. Late arrivals to class should take their seat immediately. Students who must leave the classroom for whatever reason must return quietly and avoid disruption. The use of cell phones is not permitted. Students are welcome to use laptops to take notes, but not for listening to music, monitoring social media, checking the scores, or any other purpose other than helping you take good notes.

See <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html> for complete University course policies.

Course Assignments

Sept. 1	Introduction to White Collar and Organized Crime
Sept. 8	Chapter 1 – Introduction to White-Collar Crime
Sept. 15	Chapter 2-3 – Crimes against Consumers and Unsafe Products
Sept. 22	Chapter 4 – Environmental crime
Sept. 29	Quiz; Chapter 4 – Environmental crime
Oct. 6	Chapter 5 – Institutional Corruption: Mass Media and Religion; Paper 1 due
Oct. 13	Fall Break
Oct. 20	Chapters 6-7 Securities Fraud and Corporate Fraud
Oct. 27	Mid-Term
Nov. 3	Chapters 6-7 Securities Fraud and Corporate Fraud
Nov. 10	Chapter 8 – Fiduciary fraud
Nov. 17	Chapters 9-10 – Public Corruption
Nov. 24	Paper 2 due/ Chapters 11-12 – Medical and Computer Crimes
Dec. 1	Organized Crime (lecture)
Dec. 8	Organized Crime (lecture)
Dec. 15	Final Exam