I. Course Overview

This course examines widespread forms of offending and offenders typically omitted from traditional criminology and criminal justice courses. These offenses and offenders include white collar, corporate, environmental and governmental crimes/criminals. These crimes far outnumber the traditional or ordinary street crimes examined in most criminology and criminal justice courses. Furthermore, these crimes are responsible for more illnesses, injuries and deaths than street crimes, and cost society 25 to 35 times more than ordinary street offenses. These crimes include environmental pollution, the production and marketing of unsafe products, unsafe work conditions that kill employees or cause diseases such as cancer, international crimes committed by governments and the like. Although most people tend to fear violent street crimes, it is more likely you will be a victim of a white collar or corporate offense. In fact, it is likely you have already been a victim and don’t even know it!

II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Upon completion of this course, among other things student will be able to:

- To define, critically analyze and evaluate white collar and corporate crime from a criminological and sociological perspective
- To describe the history of white collar and corporate crime and understand historical trends related to white collar and corporate crime. Define and analyze the different characteristics, elements, and classification of major crimes in the U.S.
- To identify and understand causes of white collar and corporate crime
- To analyze the often paradoxical and complex relationship between white collar/corporate crime and major social structural issues including but not limited to race/ethnicity, class, gender, politics, economics, culture, and criminal justice

One particular goal of this class is that each of you will possess an increased willingness and openness to ask the difficult, complex questions which the study of white collar crime presents regarding the nature of phenomenon, its ubiquitous presence, and how the government approaches it.

This ability to evaluate issues of justice and injustice will be based on a thoughtful examination of the strengths/weaknesses of each perspective - one that is supported by evidence and critical analysis, not simply one's claims or ideology. If you are open-minded and willing to challenge your own assumptions, you will develop the skills needed to analyze different perspectives of criminal justice and to better understand and articulate your own.

III. Course readings

Required Book:

   The Third Edition of Trusted Criminals is acceptable for this course.

2. In addition, there will be newspaper and magazine articles/reports and scholarly manuscripts to read for some specific weeks/documentsaries and several online videos. I will send you the link and/or where to find them one week before they are due. Check course schedule for detailed information.

IV. Course requirements

Readings:

There will some readings and some writing required of each student. Because there is so much we could cover in an introductory class on ‘Criminal Justice,’ some of the content will be addressed in the readings but not in the lectures. You will need to read in order to help you prepare for the exams. Be aware that all required reading materials, films, lecture materials and class discussion elements are fair game for the exams. Do not rely on class lectures to get you through the course – they are only one part of the whole picture. You will be held accountable for all readings whether I have lectured on the material or not. TAKE NOTES during classes and read the assigned readings before coming to class.

Exams:

There will be 3 exams – two midterms and the final. All three exams will consist of multiple choice, short answers, and short essay questions, which will be developed from readings, lectures, films, assignments, discussions, exercises, and other class work. The final exam may be somewhat cumulative. It will cover the material from the
last section of the class, and may include some basic information which you should have learned from other sections. I will provide a study guide at least one class period before the exams.

*I will allow for a make-up exam only with a documented medical excuse or other documented family emergency. “Over sleeping” on the day of the exam is not a legitimate excuse and you will not be given the opportunity for a make-up.*

*If you are having problems, academically, socially or emotionally, etc., please talk to me if your grades are affected.*

**Written Assignments:**

There will be five written assignments throughout the course of the semester. These assignments will be short essays to addressed white collar crime issues. Each week you have a number of assigned readings from the textbook and online readings and/or documentaries/videos. **Assignment details will be listed one week prior to the due date.** Assignments should be submitted via Blackboard by midnight every Friday. Late submissions will automatically lose one point per day.

Each essay will be 2-3 pages in length (depending on the instructions for each assignment), typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font. Each short essay should include the following:

- Your name, date, class information, and number of essay (e.g. 1/2 or 2/2)
- Source information (journal/magazine name, title of the article, author, and date)
- A summary of the article and main issue/problems at stake
- Comparisons/contrasts/arguments from the textbook and lectures
- And student’s arguments and discussion comments supported by facts and evidence. Your particular opinion is not enough if it is not based on scientific evidence and/or facts.

Each essay is worth a total of 4 points for total essay points: 20. **Due Dates:**

a) The 1st essay is due January 31st, 2014.
b) The 2nd essay is due February 7th, 2014.
c) The 3rd essay is due February 14th, 2014.
d) The 4th essay is due February 28th, 2014.
e) The 5th essay is due April 18th, 2014.

**Essay Rubric**

Well-constructed argument—scientific-based facts/evidence 2 point
Readable/spelling/grammar 1 point
Correct citation format, using academic language 1 point

Total 4 point each
Quizzes:

There will be five online multiple choice quizzes throughout the semester. The content of each quiz will include the readings/videos/documentaries available online for that specific week. All of them are due by midnight Friday and you will have 20 minutes to take them.

Attendance:

Please be aware that I will often lecture on certain topics for which I have assigned no readings. The class will be augmented by several in-class videos or documentaries and at least one guest lecture. I will try to put most films on reserve in the media resources library.

You must come to class on a regular basis. I will take attendance every class and it will count for your final grade.

Please, do not e-mail me and ask to explain a class you missed! Call one of your fellow classmates for that. However, I will be happy to answer your specific questions and try to clarify ideas either during office hours or by e-mail. Classes will begin promptly at 8:00am – please be on time or you’ll miss announcements. Unless you have an emergency, please do not come and go during lecture – it is distracting to all of us! Also, do not be late to class!!

V. Grades

Final grades will be determined based on student performance throughout the course as follows. Final grades will be on a standard scale.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five quizzes (at 3 points each)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five assignments (at 4 points each)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three exams (at 20 points each)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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Grading Scale: There is a possible 100 points in this class. I will not bump you up. Do the work to get the grade you want.

90 – 100 ...... A
80 – 89 ...... B
70 – 79 ...... C
60 – 69 ...... D
59 or below..... F
VI. Academics

Class Participation:

If you participate enough so that I get to know who you are, you improve your chances of getting your grade bumped up if your point total is on the borderline. Do not expect an automatic increase just because you have an 89.45%; you have to deserve the upgrade for some academic reason.

Classroom Behavior:

All members of the class are expected to behave with courtesy and respect toward others. Should behavioral disruptions interfere with the business of the classroom and the ability of class members to learn, they may be reported to the Office of Student Services as outlined in TAMUCC General Academic Policies and Regulations (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf).

We also live in a highly electronically mediated and interconnected world where we seem to be "on call" 24/7. Consequently, I am guessing that most if not all of you regularly pack a cell phone as standard operating equipment for helping you navigate through your daily lives. These seem to have become a new form of a musical instrument and have a very disruptive potential in certain settings. **TURN THEM OFF WHEN YOU ARE IN CLASS: NO CHATTING, TEXTING, OR ANGRY BIRDS, PLEASE.**

As a sidebar... some of you may find it necessary at some point in the semester to keep a cell phone on during class because of a sick child or other immediately pressing matter. If so, please let me know before class starts that you’ll need to keep a phone active.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to be above reproach in scholastic activities. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. Such scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. If you have any questions about this (especially what constitutes plagiarism), please stop by my office and I would be happy to discuss it. Refer to TAMUCC Academic Honesty for further details on definitions of academic dishonesty and the judicial procedure associated with allegations thereof (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf).

TAMUCC Students with Disabilities:

If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Also, please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric
disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in Corpus Christi Hall 116) at 361.825.5816

**Emergency Management Statement:**

In case of an emergency, the University’s Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the homepage of the University’s website. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the University’s emergency management plan can be found at: [http://safety.tamucc.edu/S/EMP.pdf](http://safety.tamucc.edu/S/EMP.pdf)

**HEOA Compliance Statement:**

HEOA Compliance statement: The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at [http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html)

**E-mail Accounts:**

The Department of Social Sciences communicates through emails via Blackboard and the Islander’s web service. You can set up your accounts to be forwarded to your personal email account. A TAMUCC email account is the only account our main office uses to initiate contact with students. These emails include information about cancellation of classes or an event, student activities and general information. Your student account also is part of the Blackboard communication system and may be the best way for me to get in touch with you if I need to. Be sure you have your account set up!

**Grade Appeal Process:**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of the proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal.

A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website:


For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
VII. Course Schedule

Week 1, Introduction, syllabus review, course overview
Jan/22 No readings assigned
Jan/24 Take syllabus 1st quiz on Bb.

Week 2: Defining Crimes of the Powerful
Jan/27: Friedrichs, Chapter 1 (The Discovery of White Collar Crime)
Jan/29:
Jan/31 Assignment 1 posted on Bb. Submit it there

Week 3: The Corporation
Feb/03 Friedrichs, Chapter 2 (Studying White Collar Crime and Assessing Costs)
Feb/05
Feb/07 Assignment 2 Interview with Miles Lord, watch it on Bb and submit your assignment there

Week 4: Nature, Distribution, and Theories of White Collar Crime
Feb/10 Friedrichs, Chapt.8 (Explaining White Collar Crime Theories & Accounts)
Feb/12
Feb/14 Read online the following articles:
1.Twenty Things You Should Know about Corporate Crime
2. A List of the 100 Top Corporate Criminals of the 1990s
Assignment 3 posted on Bb. Submit it there

Week 5: Corporate Crimes
Feb/17 Friedrichs, Chapter 3 (Corporate Crime)
Feb/19 First Exam
Feb/21 Watch online the Documentary 'the Corporation':
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6zQO7JytzQ

Week 6: Financial Crimes
Feb/24: Friedrichs, Chapter 6 (State-Corporate Crime and Finance Crime)
Feb/26:
Feb/28: Watch the documentary: Inside Job
Assignment 4 posted on Bb. Submit it there

Week 7: Organized White Collar Crime: When Mafia Meets White Collar Offenders
Mar/03 Friedrichs, Chapter 7 (Enterprise Crime and Contrepreneurial Crime)
Mar/05
Mar/07 Watch the online video on the Camorra Italian Mafia:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-JPshvSryw
3rd quiz online due today

Week 8: Spring Break No classes
Mar/10:
Mar/12:
Week 9: Political Corruption: From Influence Peddling to Cronyism
Mar/17: Friedrichs, Chapter 5 (Governmental Crime)
Mar/19: Second Exam
Mar/21: Watch online video posted on Bb: TBA

Week 10: The Prison Industrial Complex: Prisons as Profitable Businesses
Mar/24 Readings TBA
Mar/26
Mar/28 Watch online video The Prison Industrial Complex:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS9Vxt3yQdk
4th Quiz available on Bb. Due today

Week 11: Low Profile Occupational Crime
Mar/31: Friedrichs, Chapter 4 (Occupational & Avocational Crime)
April/02:
April/04: Watch video online: TBA

Week 12: Corruption among Law Enforcement Agents
April/07: Readings TBA
April/09:
April/11: Watch online video ‘Crimes at the Border’:  
http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/watch/player.html?pkg=704_crimes &seg=1&mod=0

Week 13: Legal Context of White Collar Crime (WCC)
April/14: Friedrichs, Chapter 9 (Law and the Social Control of WCC)
April/16:
April/18: Assignment 5 posted on Bb. Submit it there

Week 14: Coping with White Collar Crime
April/21: Friedrichs, Chapter 10 (Policing and Regulating WCC)
April/23: Friedrichs, Chapter 11 (Prosecuting, Defending, and Adjudicating WCC)
April/25: 5th Quiz available on Bb.

Week 15: Conclusions
April/28 Friedrichs, Chapter 12 (Responding to the Challenge of WCC)
April/30 Final comments and wrap up
May/02 Watch video on Bb: TBA

Week 16: Last Class
May/05 Final Exam! (If needed, we will have our final exam during the official time, Time: TBA)

____________________________________
Your Name, Signature, and Date Here