

**Course Syllabus
(47:202:343 section 1)
White Collar Crime (WCR, WCD)**

Instructor: Cristina Cruz

Email: criscruz@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Days/Time: Thursday 6-9 PM

Location: Hill Hall (HIL-201).

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

- Rosoff, Pontell & Tillman. Profit Without Honor. 7th Edition (Copies of chapters will be provided on Canvas).
- Read the local papers daily. Current events work very well with the course material and will be used to outline concepts when relevant.
- **All readings will be posted on canvass. Please check regularly.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: White-Collar Crime focuses on a wide range of criminal activity that is committed by people who hold some sort of privilege in an economic and/or political position. In this course, a systemic approach will be taken to understand how white-collar crime moves through the institution of policing, the court system, and the corrections system. You will also learn about different systems in which white-collar crime can occur including the economic system, the corporate system, the housing system, systems of social control, and the health care system, as well as crimes in sales-related occupations and environmental crimes. Finally, you will learn about who the perpetrators of these crimes are, who is victimized by these crimes, criminological theories that explain why these crimes occur, how trends in white-collar crimes have changed over time, and how white-collar crime compares to street crime.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to provide students with an overview of corporate and white-collar crime and the economic, political, and social impact of white-collar crime. Upon completion of this course students are expected to have solid knowledge on the history of corporate and white-collar crimes and be able to analyze the schemes behind each type of crime that are covered in this course. At the culmination of this course, students should be able to:

1. Analyze acts that constitute white-collar crime and learn about white-collar court proceedings;
2. Draw parallels between white collar and conventional criminal activities.
3. Articulate the major theories that explain WCC, and the principal research findings associated with each major theory;
4. Analyze case studies of WCC in order to explore themes around victimization, social damages, criminal justice, and broader policy responses;
5. Explore and critique different philosophies of punishing white collar crime;
6. Define and understand the various types of WCC, i.e., crimes against consumers, unsafe products, environmental crime, institutional corruption, securities fraud, corporate fraud, fiduciary fraud, crimes by the government, and medical crime;
7. Be conversant about various examples of each of these types of WCC;

8. Recognize the various actors and their roles in WCC, i.e., perpetrator(s), victim(s), law enforcement, the courts, corrections, etc.;
9. Recognize the costs and effects of WCC, i.e., environmental costs, human costs, economic costs, social costs;
10. Explore ways in which WCC can be combatted and prevented;
11. Enhance critical thinking skills through participation in discussion boards and completion of writing assignments;
12. Develop analytical and research skills through written assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in this course students will:

- Attend all classes.
- Complete assigned readings prior to class
- Create high quality written products
- Contribute to class discussions constructively and consistently
- Keep informed of current events as they pertain to white collar crime
- All the written products for the entire class require the same format

Written Assignments:

Weekly critical written assignments:

- After each week's class session, I will post a writing assignment based on the class discussion. Each paper should be 2 pages (about 500 words, times new roman 12, double spaced).
- For each submission, I will give feedback on your critical engagement and academic writing. I will track your improvement. It is crucial that you submit your weekly assignments on time so that you can get feedback and improve your writing during the semester.

Two current event analysis papers:

- Students will review headlines in an open source of their choice daily and identify a white-collar crime case of relevance. Students will prepare two, 3–5-page, case study analyses during the semester. Papers must be in 12-point font size, Times New Roman, double spaced, and have one-inch margins all around.

Final Paper:

- Students will submit a white-collar related topic/research area of their choice by the date specified. The final paper will consist of research related to the topic submitted. The total paper should be 9-10 pages long, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced, standard one-inch margins, and be in APA style.

Late Submissions

All students are required to use Word spell and grammar checker, Grammarly or some other software to check their writing before submission. All papers must be submitted on their due date through Canvass.

Late Papers – Late papers will be accepted; however, a letter grade will be lost for each day late that the paper is submitted (for example, if one day late, the paper will commence with a B, down from an

A). Students must submit their written assignment via Canvass or as directed by the instructor as soon as it is completed.

Missing Papers - If a student does not submit a written assignment within two weeks of the due date (or before the day of the final exam), he/she will receive a zero ('0')/F on the assignment. Papers will not be accepted more than two weeks following the due date.

All work presented in this course must be original work. Recycling or reusing whole or parts of presentations or briefings prepared for other courses is **NOT** permitted. Plagiarism is the quickest way to ruin your personal and organization's reputation and credibility. It's also a violation of University policy and a guaranteed way to fail this class.

The syllabus is subject to change. The operating environment changes frequently, requiring alterations in priorities and tactics. This course will undoubtedly be no different. We will endeavor to make changes to the syllabus only when necessary to improve the learning experience and give you as much advance notice as possible. Stay flexible.

For any writing support/assistance, please review this website:

- <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/writing-center>

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Attendance. To protect the health and well-being of all members of the University community, masks must be worn by all persons on campus when within six feet of others and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks must be worn during class meetings; any student not wearing a mask will be asked to put a mask on or leave.

CDC Classroom/Health Requirements:

- In order to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should conform to CDC guidelines and should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).
- **Wear your mask!**
- Masks/Face coverings must be worn (required) in all buildings at RU-N, including in classroom settings. Masks/Face coverings should cover your nose and your mouth securely. Though you may choose to wear your mask outdoors, particularly in crowded settings, masks are not required outdoors.

- Masks should conform to CDC guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
- Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app.

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals Experiencing Disability: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the [RU-N ODS website \(ods.newark.rutgers.edu\)](https://ods.newark.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Short-term Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures located at <https://uec.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/60-1-33-current-1.pdf>

For support related to Interpersonal Violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does **not** have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If students are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *Sanvello* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support. Visit <https://my.rutgers.edu/>, click on Sanvello: Wellness @ RUN, and log in with your netid to begin your journey toward wellness.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

GRADING POLICY:

Final grades will be based on attendance, class participation, individual written assignments, and one research paper.

A = 90.0-100%	Work is <i>excellent</i> in quality; it is correct, comprehensive, and markedly superior
B+ = 87.0-89.9% B = 80.0-86.9%	Work is <i>very good</i> in quality; it is correct and provides a detailed explanation in responses; exceeds expectations in some areas
C+ = 77.0-79.9% C = 70.0-76.9%	Work is of <i>acceptable</i> quality; may be missing or incorrect in a minor area; meets but does not exceed expectations
D = 60.0-69.9%	Work <i>does not meet</i> expectations for the course but passes; it is incorrect in one or more major areas
F = 0-59.9%	Work <i>fails</i> to meet minimum expectations for the course

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session 1: (Thursday, September 8): Introductions, Class Parameters, Terminology

Session 2: (Thursday, September 15)

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Friedrichs, Chapter 1: The Discovery of White-Collar Crime
- <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/12/21/amazon-federal-law-enforcement-525794>
- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 2: Crimes Against Consumers
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/01/04/biggest-fraud-trials-holmes/>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/12/09/major-us-retailers-urge-action-by-congress-on-online-sales-of-stolen-and-counterfeit-goods.html>

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE

Session 3: (Thursday, September 22):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 3: Unsafe Products
- <https://www.legalexaminer.com/category/home-family/baby-powder-lawsuits/>

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY

Session 4: (Thursday, September 29)

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 4: Environmental Crime

EVENT ANALYSIS PAPER DRAFT TODAY

Session 5: (Thursday, October 6):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Friedrichs, Chapter 2: Studying White Collar Crime and Assessing its Costs

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY

Session 6 (Thursday, October 13):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 6: Securities Fraud
- <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/san-diego-real-estate-agent-sentenced-multi-million-dollar-ponzi-schemes>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/23/bernie-madoff-earned-710-in-prison-after-ponzi-fraud-conviction.html>
- <https://www.investor.gov/protect-your-investments/fraud/types-fraud/ponzi-scheme>

EVENT ANALYSIS PAPER DUE TODAY

Session 7: (Thursday, October 20)

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Friedrichs, Chapter 8: Explaining White Collar Crimes Theories and Accounts
- **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY**

Session 8: (Thursday, October 27):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 9: Crimes by the Government
- <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/public-corruption>
- <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/12/28/lieber-espionage-justice-initiative-china/>

SECOND EVENT ANALYSIS PAPER DRAFT DUE TODAY

Sessions 9: (Thursday, November 3):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- TBD
 - **FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
-

Session 10: (Thursday, November 10):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 10: Corruption of Public Officials

SECOND EVENT ANALYSIS FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY

Session 11 (Thursday, November 17):

ASSIGNED READINGS:

- Read: Rosoff, Chapter 11: Medical Crime

***Thanksgiving Recess: November 24-27: No Class**

Session 12 (Thursday, December 1):

ASSIGNED READINGS: TBD

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY

Session 13 (Thursday, December 8):

ASSIGNED READINGS: TBD

Session 14: (Thursday, December 15)

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE WITH ALL REVISIONS

WE MADE IT!