



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Criminology

CRIM 314

Special Topic: White-Collar Crime

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday 12:00 - 12:50 Maclaurin MCLT103

Lectures: Thursday 12:00 - 12:50 Hugh Mackenzie HMLT104

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Prof Simon Mackenzie

Level 11, Murphy Building, Room 1118

Tel: (04) 463 9452

Email: simon.mackenzie@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-2pm.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated in lectures and on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

This course will examine white-collar crime in the context of the wider conceptual framework of 'crimes of the powerful', looking at individual white-collar crimes, corporate crimes and political crimes. Criminological theory will be explored for explanations of the causes of white-collar crimes. Case studies of white-collar crimes will be used to critically examine methods of policing, regulating and punishing powerful offenders. The limits of criminology and the criminal law as policy tools for controlling elite deviance will also be critically evaluated.

Course content

	Week Commencing	Tuesday 12:00 - 12:50	Thursday 12:00 – 12:50	Tutorial
1	11 July	What is WCC?	The conceptual history of WCC	No tutorial
2	18 July	Theory 1: the sociology of organisations	Theory 2: denial, justification, excuse	What is WCC?
3	25 July	Theory 3: choice and opportunity	Theory 4: personality and social structure	Theoretical perspectives on WCC
4	1 August	Corporate crime: the corporation	Corporate crime 1	No tutorial
5	8 August	Corporate crime 2	Occupational WCC	Corporate crime
6	15 August	Occupational WCC case study: mortgage fraud	Avocational WCC	Occupational crime
	22 August	Mid-trimester break		

	29 August	Mid-trimester break		
7	5 September	Scams	Cyber WCC	Avocational crime
8	12 September	State and political crime	State-corporate crime and crimes of globalisation	Scams and cyberscams
9	19 September	Finance crime	The relationship between WCC and organised crime	WCC and the State
10	26 September	Media and policy construction of WCC	Punishing WCC: policing and the criminal justice system	WCC and OC: conceptual and practical interfaces
11	3 October	Regulating WCC	WCC in New Zealand and Australia	Controlling WCC
12	10 October	Emerging issues in WCC	Summary and conclusions	No tutorial

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Explain the nature and extent of white-collar crime in society.
2. Critically engage with key theories that help to explain the causes and forms of white-collar crime.
3. Identify the impacts and implications of white-collar crime for individuals, society, and criminology.
4. Critically evaluate approaches to preventing, reducing, punishing or controlling white-collar crime.

Teaching format

The course will be taught by two 50 minute lectures per week over 12 teaching weeks, and nine 50 minute tutorials. During the first week, you will be allocated a tutorial group. Once you have been allocated to one of these groups, you should always attend at that time.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving the overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit the essay outline
2. Submit the essay
3. Sit the take home test
4. Achieve at least 35% for each piece of assessment.
5. Attend 7 tutorials out of 9 (unless there are extenuating circumstances), so that students will have the opportunity to develop oral communication and teamwork skills in relation to the application of criminological theory to the substantive problem of white-collar crime.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional circumstances, will be advised to contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

Taking into account class attendance of 3 hours a week (lectures and tutorials), reading, and preparation for assignments, students should spend around 13 hours per week working for CRIM 314 (200 hours over a trimester). You should ensure that you complete the readings relating to each topic and you are expected to take an active part in tutorial exercises.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Take home test (Two hours - 2000 words)	30%	2	4pm on Wednesday 3 rd August
2	Essay outline (1250 words)	20%	1,2,3,4	4pm on Thursday 18 th August
3	3250 word essay	50%	1,2,3,4	4pm on Wednesday 26 th October

Take home test (2000 words)

To be done between 9am Monday 1st August and 4pm Wednesday 3rd August.

The questions for this test will be posted on Blackboard at 9am on Monday 1st August. The test is designed to give you the opportunity to display and apply your knowledge of *criminological theoretical perspectives* that can help us to understand white-collar crime. You will be given a choice of five questions and asked to select two questions to answer. Each of your answers should be around 1000 words long. It is anticipated that you will need to spend around 1 hour writing each answer, although you can spend as long as you require within the three days you have to prepare your submission. You are permitted to consult books and online materials during the test. Answers should be word processed and submitted in hard copy to the school office before the deadline, together with an online copy submitted to Turnitin via the Blackboard course webpage.

Essay outline (1250 words)

Select one of the essay topics listed under the 'essay' section below. Your outline should indicate the title and proposed structure of the paper, the main issues which will be canvassed and your overall essay aim. In your proposal you should also provide an initial list of the books, journal articles and other sources of information on which your essay will be based. See the suggested format for the essay below: use this as a guide to plan your outline.

Essay (3250 words)

Your essay should be in the form of a case study of a particular example of white-collar crime, chosen from the list below. You can choose a topic that is not on this list, but only if you consult the course co-ordinator and your proposed topic is approved.

1. Nick Leeson and the Barings Bank
2. The Challenger space shuttle launch decision (USA)
3. The BCCI (Bank of Credit and Commerce International) case
4. The Brent Spar oil rig case
5. The Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill (Alaska)
6. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster (Ukraine)
7. The Fukushima nuclear disaster (Japan)
8. The Iraq war
9. Union Carbide and pollution in Bhopal

10. Enron
11. Bernard Madoff and his 'Ponzi' investment scheme
12. The 2009 scandal over MPs' expenses in the UK
13. The News International phone hacking scandal of 2011 in the UK
14. The horsemeat food crime scandal in Europe
15. BP and Deepwater Horizon
16. The Panama Papers and the issue of tax avoidance using Offshore Financial Centres
17. Trafigura and toxic waste dumping (Ivory Coast)
18. Edward Snowden, the NSA and global surveillance (USA)

The terminology 'case study' here suggests a format to the essay which may benefit from including some or all of the following things, as they are relevant to the case in hand:

Introduction

(state the main aims and goals of your essay; introduce the argument you are going to make; foreshadow your conclusion, so the reader knows what the point of the essay is and where you are going with it)

Reconstruction or explication of the facts

(based on official inquiries, reports, scholarly and academic works, journalistic work, etc.)

Explanations

(compare and contrast differing explanations of the case, and articulate your own position on this topic; engage with criminological theories that can help us understand the case; use the case to criticise or develop criminological theories that cannot explain what has happened)

Issues of regulation and control

(analyse the role and impact of law enforcement and/or regulatory bodies/authorities in the case at hand; draw conclusions towards more effective and efficient regulation and control)

Conclusion

(connect the material dealt with; restate your argument in as clear and concise a way as you can)

Please choose ONE case. Your essay should present an in-depth critical analysis of this case and explain its importance for the study of white-collar crime.

Referencing and word count rules

The preferred referencing style for this course is in-text referencing (e.g. following the Harvard, or APA style, or similar). All word limits for the assessments on this course are to include in-text references and any tables or figures, but exclude the full bibliography of references at the end of the work. You are not expected or advised to have appendices to your submitted work for this course but if you do they will be included in the word count.

Word counts are plus or minus 5%. In other words, you should aim to be within the band that starts 5% below the word count and finishes 5% above it. Problematically short or long pieces of work may be penalised.

Assessment criteria

When written work is marked, several key areas will be considered:

1. The content of the paper
2. Structure, approach and argument
3. The way in which source material has been used
4. Style and presentation.

First, your assignments must address and be relevant to the question or task set. Secondly, you should show that you have thought about the topic and reached your own conclusions on it. It is therefore important that your assignments present a logically developed flow of argument, which follows an analysis of the topic, and that this argument can be supported by the accurate presentation of supporting evidence. Thirdly, you should acknowledge accurately the sources used, and should choose representative evidence. Fourthly, it is expected that your assignments will flow coherently, be succinct, be legible and well set out, be of reasonable length and show a good knowledge of grammar, correct spelling and correct usage of terms.

This approach to marking is represented in the table below. Please see Blackboard for a more detailed breakdown of what is expected at each grade.

Indicative grade	A 80 +	B 65- 79	C 50- 64	D 40- 49	E 0- 39
STRUCTURE: A well structured argument with appropriate paragraphs and a clear introduction and conclusion					
READING: Knowledge of relevant literature, appropriately referenced (including a bibliographical reference list)					
THEORY: A grasp of the relevant concepts and competing theories/explanations					
EVIDENCE: Effective reporting and analysis of empirical evidence (appropriately referenced)					
CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS: Evidence of critical engagement, and analytical thought					
PRESENTATION: Good presentation, clarity of language/meaning, word processed and well formatted					
ORIGINALITY: Moving beyond derivative reproduction of established positions, towards grounded thinking that is innovative					

Submission and return of work

Submit a paper copy to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date. Your essay **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **11.00am and 3.00pm only from Monday to Friday**.

Students can expect their marked work to be available within approximately 3 weeks of their submission date.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments must be handed in by the due date. You are expected to keep to this deadline, as otherwise it is unfair to other students. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and should be sought from the course co-ordinator **prior** to the deadline. An example of an exceptional circumstance would be illness supported by a letter from a medical practitioner. Please note that lack of organisation, word-processing failures and other work demands are not "good reasons".

Penalties

Late submission of work without permission will be penalised by the following deductions:

One grade = period up to and including 24 hours past due date.

Two grades = period from 24 hours up to and including 72 hours past due date.

It is also most important that you do not exceed the word limit.

Please see the Marking Guidelines for information on exceeding the word limit.

Work that is handed in later than 72 hours without prior permission will not be accepted.

Set texts

David O. Friedrichs (2010) *Trusted Criminals: White Collar Crime in Contemporary Society*, 4th edn. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. Available from VicBooks, Kelburn Parade.

Recommended reading

Further readings will be posted on Blackboard, along with links to online sources where possible.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

CRIM314 is a new course in 2016. No student feedback has been recorded yet.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

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