

## **Sociology 421.03 Summer 2009 Occupational and Organized Crime**

Instructor: Dr. Paul Millar  
Office: SS 952  
Phone: (403) 220-5982 (during office hours)  
Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 11am-2pm  
Location: SH284  
Office Hours: Tuesday 4-6pm  
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### **Campus Security: 220-5333**

Campus Security operates a “Safe Walk” program that will accompany any student to any location on campus if you have any concerns about your safety. Do not hesitate to make use of this program.

### **Course Description**

This is a course on white-collar, corporate or organized crime and corruption. The emphasis will be on understanding the types of corporate crime, issues related to its detection and approaches to social control, including policing and enforcement. The emphasis in this course is on using a case study to illustrate the principles learned in the course. Students will select a case that is currently in the news or historically documented and write a paper on how this crime was perpetrated, different theoretical explanations of the crime and the kinds of controls that might help prevent such behaviour in the future.

### **Required Readings**

1. Blankenship, Michael B., ed. (1995) *Understanding Corporate Criminality*. Garland: New York.
2. Beare, Margaret E., ed. (2003) *Critical reflections on Transnational Crime, Money Laundering and Corruption*. University of Toronto Press: Toronto.

**Students' Responsibilities:** While not required, students are expected to attend classes since material will be presented that is not contained in the text. Attendance may be compulsory to obtain marks for certain course components. All material presented in the course, whether in the texts, online readings or in class may appear on examinations. The instructor will not provide notes for classes. Late penalty for any assignment is 5% per partial or full day, including weekends. Delays regarding completing course assignments and/or examinations must be accompanied by documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, obituary notice) or approval by the department of Sociology. Missed examinations usually result in other course components being weighted more heavily. At the discretion of the instructor, some alterations may be made to course format, content and/or scheduling. Please familiarize yourself with University of Calgary rules related to academic misconduct/ plagiarism.

**Course Evaluation:** Achievement in this course will be evaluated as follows:

Component	Weight	Tentative Date
Mid-term Exam	20%	21 July
Presentation	20%	Varies
Term Paper	35%	Draft: August 6 Final: August 13
Peer Review	5%	August 11
Final Exam	20%	Registrar Scheduled
Total	100%	

Note: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and/or to conform to departmental norms.

**Assessment of Term Paper:** The term paper must document a case of corporate (including governmental) crime, organized crime or corruption that has recently been reported. The paper must document the case, including the people involved, the mechanics of how it was done, extent of the wrongdoing, how it was detected and the theoretical explanations that best fit this crime. You must also provide a section that outlines the social control measures available to prevent this crime. Why did or didn't they work? What kinds of controls might be stronger preventions in the future? Describe one or two other cases for comparison. Were these cases dealt with in a similar manner? Was the response to this case by the authorities more or less appropriate, in comparison to the case in question? For current cases, include photocopies of the news items that you used to learn about the case. It should be 8-12 pages long, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman Font with 1" margins on all sides. The paper will be graded as follows:

Component	Weight
Case Description	40%
Comparison Cases	20%
Analysis of Controls	20%
Writing	20%
Total	100%

**Peer Review:** Two copies of a draft of the term paper are due at the beginning of class March 30<sup>th</sup>. Two of your fellow students will read your paper and grade it according to the assessment criteria outlined above. You, in turn, will grade two of your colleagues' papers. This assignment will be completed outside of class.

**Presentations:** Presentations are a brief outline of the case you have chosen for your term paper and the comparison case(s). You may use PowerPoint, overheads, or any other media to assist you in the presentation. It will be assessed as follows:

Component	Weight
Presentation Skills	40%
Case Description	40%
Comparison Cases	20%
Total	100%

**Tentative Reading Schedule** (subject to change)

Week	Start Date	Topic	Readings
1	July 2	Introduction	Blankenship: Intro; Chap. 1
2	July 7	History & Definitions	Blankenship: Chap. 2, 3
3	July 9	Victims, Perceptions	Blankenship: Chap. 4, 5
4	July 14	Measures, Theory	Blankenship: Chap. 6, 7
5	July 16	Social Control	Blankenship: Chap. 8, 9
6	July 21	Review, Midterm	
7	July 23	Intro to Organized and Transnational crime	Beare: Intro; Chap. 1, 2
8	July 28	Corruption Presentations	Beare: Chap. 3, 4
9	July 30	Globalization Presentations	Beare: Chap. 5, 6
10	August 4	Organized Crime, Drugs	Beare: Chap. 7, 8
11	August 6	Smuggling Draft of paper due	Beare: Chap. 9, 10
12	August 11	Drug Trafficking Peer Review due	Beare: Chap. 11
13	August 13	Social Control	Review.

**Marking Scale**

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A+	96 – 100	B+	77 – 81	C+	67 – 69	D+	57 – 59
A	86 – 95	B	73 – 76	C	63 – 66	D	53 – 56
A-	82 – 85	B-	70 – 72	C-	60 – 62	D-	50 – 52
F	0 – 49						

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments/exams from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Assignments/exams must be returned to students individually, during class or office hours. If a student is unable to pick up an assignment/exam from the instructor, s/he may provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment/exam.

**Academic Accommodation:** Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

**Ethics Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Exams/Papers and Release of Final Grades**

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.