

San José State University  
Spring 2021 Justice Studies 145-3  
White Collar Crime  
Dr. Hebert

Thursday and Thursday 1:30 --- 2:45 in Zoom (Passcode: 767627)

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or through CANVAS

### Hubris

*Oh I can't help myself. You know what the difference between the state of California and Titanic? And this is being webcast, and I know I'm going to regret this - at least when the Titanic went down, the lights were on.*  
(Jeffrey Skilling, COO Enron, scheduled to be released from a 14-year prison term in 2019.)

### History

*I take full responsibility for what happened at Enron. But saying that, I know in my mind that I did nothing criminal.*  
(Ken Lay, CEO Enron, died of a heart attack in 2006 between his criminal convictions and sentencing.)

*"Illegal? Yes, but not criminal."*

((Former) vice-president convicted of price-fixing, cited in Gilbert Geis's *"The Heavy Electrical Equipment Antitrust Cases of 1961."*)

### and Humor

*The subculture of felons is in great vogue among adolescents. Enron, WorldCom, Tyco, and so forth allow us Republicans to say to America's young people, 'We be thugs.' The GOP may capture the youth vote at last.*  
(P. J. O'Rourke, the only humorous Republican humorist that I know of.)

**Prerequisite:** Upper division standing.

**Catalog Description:** Growth and development of white collar crime in the United States: crimes at the workplace, computer fraud, swindles, embezzlement, bribery and graft at the corporate and governmental levels.

**Section Specific Description and Student Learning Objectives:** Students will learn, through both individually directed and collaborative learning endeavors, to recognize, describe, and lucidly illustrate historical, contemporary and emergent types financial and economic misdeeds undertaken either for the benefit of a corporate entity or for individuals taking advantage of their position in an organization.

**Note:** To be accepted for credit towards a degree in Justice Studies, a grade of "C" or better in this course is required.

**Required Readings:**

- 1) *White Collar Crime / The Essentials 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* 2017 Brian K. Payne SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.
- 2) Other readings, videos, or audios distributed online.

**Course Requirements:** Course grades are based on chapter quizzes, a mid-term and final exams, and discussions.

**Quizzes and Exams:** The “chapters” in reference to quizzes and exams are the textbook chapters and any material presented in class or assigned during the class period to which the textbook chapter was assigned. Quizzes and the two exams have the same format, heavily multiple choice. The difference is in length and material covered. Quizzes, unless otherwise noted, cover one chapter and associated material. The mid-term covers all material back to the start of class as does the final exam. The final exam will primarily be concerned with material assigned since the mid-term but can and will have questions drawn from any class material.

**Discussion:** Topics for discussion will be assigned and student-generated for every chapter. Grading of discussion will be based on participation, presentation to the class, and written assignments

**Course Weighting of Material:**

I’m still working this out. The quizzes and exams will make up roughly 75% of the course grade and discussion the remaining. Discussion will include some writing assignments and I’m still working this part out.

**Grading Policy and Correspondence:**

I usually apply a curve to exams and the posted scores reflect any curving that I have done (I only curve up, never down). If a curve is applied, approximately 20 to 25 percent of the class will receive an A- or better on that exam. All assessment materials are graded on a percentage basis, and correspond to the following letter grades.

**Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence**

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A+	96%	A	93%	A-	90%	B+	86%	B	83%	B-	80%
C+	76%	C	73%	C-	70%	D+	66%	D	63%	D-	60%
F	Less Than 60%										

**Quiz and Exam Grade Postings:** Quiz and Exam scores will be posted on the Home page in the “Grades” module. This is the only source of the official grade. I do not use the CANVAS gradebook and the quiz and exam scores you see there are uncurved. Grades will be posted using a synthetic number called a “Posting ID.” To create your posting ID number, multiply the first five digits of your SJSU student ID number by the last four digits of your SJSU student ID number. The last four digits of the product is the posting ID number.

EXAMPLE: SJSU ID number is 000825197

First five digits are: 00082

Last four digits are: 5197

Multiply = 426154

The last four digits, 6154, is the Posting ID number.

### Late Test and Assignment Policy:

No to full credit depending on circumstance. The possible combinations of circumstance are damn near infinite and thus an attempt to assign specific penalty weights a truly Herculean task. Instead, the following are the factors I consider, along with examples of good, OK, and bad excuses.

Dimension	Good	OK	Bad
Notification:	Notification delivered in class at least one class meeting prior to absence	Note in mailbox / e-mail day of exam.	Five weeks after assignment due date.
Reason:	Work-related travel. Getting married, personal illness, serious illness of a close relative, death of a close relative.	Too much coursework/job stress. Relationship troubles, ceremonial participation.	Hung over, forgot, getting married more than once, weekly participation in ceremonies of death or other.
What Missed:		Quizzes and Mid-Term Exam.	Assignment, Crime Portfolio, Final Exam.
Documentation:	Newspaper, Dr./Clinic appointment, receipt for automotive repair, court summons	Note from Mom.	Insultingly bad forgery.
Made up by:	Next Class Meeting or Prior to Due Date.	Two Class Meetings	Final Exam Week.
Attendance:	I can match name to face.	Pretty sure that you are, or were, in one of my classes.	Couldn't pick you out of a lineup for \$100,000.

### Mandatory Statements

These things have reproduced more rapidly than bacteria in a petri dish. But in a spate of sanity, we can now link rather than reproduce the statements which are found here:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

(Verified January 26, 2021)

My remarks on selected statements follow.

Academic Integrity:

In the long run academic dishonesty hurts only you. Academic dishonesty can also cause pain in the short run, see Academic Senate Policy F15-7

**Course Requirements and Assignments:**

This statement is required by Federal regulation. And, unsurprisingly, is close to incomprehensible unless schooled in educratspeak. It translates as this: This is a three credit course so you should spend  $3 \times 3 = 9$  hours / week on the course. Three of those hours are spent in the classroom ( $1 \frac{1}{4} \times 2 = 2 \frac{1}{2}$ ), which we fictionalize to 3 hours, so you should spend 6 hours / week outside of class reading, studying, etc. for this course. Since this is an online course, you really aren't spending 3 hours/week in a class room, but the expectation is the same: 9 hours per week for this course.

**Religious Accommodation:**

[Included under protest as appears to be a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> (Equal Protection) Clause.]

Note: I will continue to use my long-standing and far more liberal notification requirement specified above.

**Recording and Distribution of Class Material:**

If you want to record my or any instructor's lecture, receive permission first. Just as a reminder (also reproduced from S12-7): "Audio recording without consent in private settings is prohibited by California Penal Code 630-635."

**Miscellaneous Items:**

It's in the syllabus. Did you look in the syllabus? Are you willing to bet your next quiz score, double or nothing that it isn't in the syllabus?

True enough, not every question can be answered by referencing the syllabus, but a large number, dare I say the majority of questions I get are answered either by the syllabus or an assignment. If you have a question, ask away. Just don't be surprised if I say:

It's in the syllabus.

If I do say that and it really isn't, let me know ASAP as it should have been. ;)


I have not used the waiting room option for the course. But, if people start to trickle in late, I will and with one class advance notice, not allow late arrivals to enter.

To get started on the semester: It's in the syllabus.

**This greensheet, like all greensheets is subject to revision.**

(A bit of SJSU history. Syllabus were officially called greensheets from times before living memory until Fall 2017.)

## Justice Studies 145 White Collar Crime Spring 2021 Schedule

Date	Readings	Activities
January 28	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	
February 2	Section I: Introduction and Overview of White-Collar Crime: A Systems Perspective	
February 4		Discussion Quiz 1*
February 9	Section II: Understanding White-Collar Crime: Definitions, Extent, and Consequences	
February 11		Discussion Quiz 2
February 16	Section III: crimes in Sales-Related Occupations: a Systems Perspective	
February 18		Discussion Quiz 3
February 23	Section IV: Crimes in the Health Care System	
February 25		Discussion Quiz 4
March 2	Section V: Crime in Systems of Social Control: White-Collar Crime in criminal Justice, Political, and Religious Systems	
March 4		Discussion Quiz 5
March 9	Section VI: Crimes in the Educational System	
March 11		Discussion Quiz 6
March 16	Section VII: Crime in the Economic and Technological Systems	
March 18		Discussion Quiz 7
March 23		
March 25		Mid-Term
March 30		Spring Break
April 1		
April 6	Section VIII: Crime in the Cyber System	
April 8		Discussion Quiz 8
April 13	Section X: Crimes by the Corporate System	

Date	Readings	Activities
April 15		Discussion Quiz 10
April 20	Section XI: Environmental Crime	
April 22		Discussion Quiz 11
April 27	Section XII: Explaining White-Collar Crime	
April 29		Discussion Quiz 12
May 4	Section XIV: Judicial Proceeding and White Collar Crime	
May 6		Discussion Quiz 14
May 11	Section XV: The Corrections Subsystem and White-Collar Crime	
May 13	Last Class	Discussion Quiz 15
May 20	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

\*Unless otherwise noted, all quizzes, the mid-term and the final exam are due by 11:59 PM on Thursday.