



Department of Sociology

**SOCIOLOGY 3361G: Crimes of the Powerful
Winter 2015 Term
Section 570**

DETAILED COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Director: Matthew G. Yeager, Ph.D.

Office: FB209

Office Phone: 433-3491, Ext. 4549

E-mail: myeager@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tues. 2-4 p.m.; Wed., 2:00-4:00 pm; Thurs, 10-Noon.

Class times: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays

Class location: W045

White collar and state crime is often ignored in discussions of crime and crime control strategies. Despite this, white collar crime contributes to far more financial loss, injuries, and deaths than all street crimes combined. The goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of white collar crime. Students will learn about a variety of definitions and types of corporate crime, as well as theoretical perspectives on this type of crime. The course will further examine legal responses to white collar and state crime.

The second part of this course is devoted to state crime. Here we focus on crimes committed by states and their agents, including genocide, war crimes, political corruption, and human rights violations. Such crime presents a special problem for traditional criminology in that states do not suffer from neuroses, drug addiction, or the typical pathology attributed to individual convicts.

REQUIRED READINGS (available at UWO Bookstore)

David Whyte, **Crimes of the Powerful** (England: Open U Press, 2009).

John Perkins, **Confessions of an Economic Hit Man** (New York: Plume, 2006).

Daoud Hari, **The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur** (Doubleday Canada, 2008).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – GENERAL

PRE-REQUISITES: Sociology 2266A/B (formerly 266) or permission of the instructor.

ANTI-REQUISITES: None

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

DROP DATE: March 7, 2015

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - GRADING

The final grade will reflect your performance on three evaluation components of the course. These are:

(1) Weekly Memos **(20 points)**

You will write five (5), one-page memos on pre-selected topics – one approximately every two weeks over the course of this lecture. Each memo must be handed in personally, and is worth up to four (4) points. These memos will form the basis for a lively seminar discussion following a short lecture on the week they are due.

(2) Midterm **(35 points)**

There will be an in-class, written midterm reflecting both your readings and lectures to this mid-point of the class. The questions will be narrative in style, not multiple choice, and will require you to apply your knowledge gained in class to one or more fact situations.

(3) Paper **(45 points)**

Your final written paper will be no more than 10 pages, double-spaced and preferably type-written. References can be included on an additional page. It is due on the final day of class, **December 5, 2012**, and may NOT be sent electronically. You will all write on the same topic, which will be pre-selected by your Professor and cover all course materials.

MARKING SCALES

Marks for achievement in courses are assigned as follows:

90 –100	A+
80-89	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

LECTURE TOPIC & READINGS

Jan. 7, 2015	Introduction and overview of the course. Discussion of definitions, historical developments. Announcements. <i>Readings:</i> Whyte, pp. 1-12; Hari, pp. ix -67; Perkins, pp. xi-xxv.
Jan. 14, 2015	The Sponsorship Scandal: Inside the Belly of the Beast <i>Readings:</i> Whyte, pp. 170-177, Chaps 36-38; Hari, pp. 68-130; Perkins, pp.3-39.
Jan. 21, 2015:	Darfur: Genocide in action. <i>Readings:</i> Whyte, pp.130-137; Hari, pp. 131-193; Perkins, pp. 43-106.
Jan. 28, 2015:	The Crime of the 20 th Century: the Holocaust – Part I <i>Readings:</i> Whyte, Chaps. 11, 26; Perkins, pp. 107-170;
Feb. 4, 2015	The Crime of the 20 th Century: the Holocaust – Part II <i>Readings:</i> Whyte, Chaps. 4, 6, & 33; Perkins, pp. 171-238;
Feb. 11, 2015:	Explaining State and Corporate Crime Review for Midterm <i>Readings:</i> Whyte, Chaps 8, 22, 28, 29 & 42; Perkins, pp. 239-277;
Feb. 18, 2015	***Reading Week – No Class – Enjoy***
Feb. 25, 2015	In-Class written Midterm

Mar. 4, 2015:	Corporate Crime: Enron Readings: Whyte, Chaps. 17, 20, 21 & 36.
Mar. 11, 2015:	Inside the Bre-X scandal Readings: Whyte, Chaps. 23 & 39
Mar. 18, 2015	The Westray Mine Disaster Readings: Whyte, Chaps. 19, 23 & 24
Mar. 25, 2015	Iraq as a War Crime? Readings: Whyte, Chaps. 7, 37 & 45.
Apr. 1, 2015	Aboriginal Colonialism as a State Crime. Readings: Whyte, Chaps. 39, 43.
Apr. 8, 2015	Theory and Praxis: The Debate over Solutions Papers Due Today!

SPECIAL NOTES

Students with special needs may apply through the Counseling and Student Development Office to obtain special accommodations with their studies and tests. **Please note that it is the student's responsibility to make these arrangements with sufficient time prior to the first test that accommodations can be arranged.**

A NOTE ABOUT THE COURSE SYLLABUS

Please note that this course outline is subject to revision. Throughout the course, circumstances may arise that will alter the ordering of topics and the pace at which we move through the material. Video clips may also be used as part of the course material. It is your responsibility to do the suggested readings and to take lecture notes. If you are unable to attend class please consult with your colleagues in order to acquire lecture material or other course content that you may have missed. If you are absent from class for an extended period of time, please inform your course director as soon as possible.



Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholasticdiscipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Unless otherwise noted by your Professor, the following policies are in effect:

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom

"King's University College at The University of Western Ontario acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See http://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf. Inappropriate use of laptops during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords."

Submission of Late Essays/Assignments - *Only late essays/assignments may be placed in the green mailbox.*

All essays and assignments must be submitted directly to your professor, or designated assistant. Arrangements for submission must be made with the professor for any assignments handed-in outside the scheduled due date/time that are not considered late.

Essays in the late essay/assignment box will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. The drop-box located on the main floor of The (south) Annex

Please ensure your professor's name is on the essay/assignment.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Tests/Examinations

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Faculty Office Hours: Faculty office hours can be found on King's homepage under the menu heading Academics and are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Faculty Secretaries' Office on the 2nd floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development Services at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>;

for emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/program-and-course-planning/academic-advising/>

updated July 2014