White Collar Crime — Course Syllabus
BLAW 495 (Special Topics)
Professor Zucker
Spring 2009

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E-mail:  bruce.zucker@csun.edu
Class Hours:  Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Ticket No.:  17716
Office Hours::  Tuesday/Thursday:  7:30 to 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
              Tuesday:  3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Course Description
The term "white-collar crime" refers to many different forms of illegal business activity. This course will explore various types of white collar crime committed in the United States and abroad, including fraud, perjury, obstruction, computer crime, bribery and corruption, embezzlement, tax evasion, conspiracy, RICO, and organizational (entity) crime. It will examine criminal procedure, including search and seizure, due process, self incrimination, right to counsel, sentencing, fines, restitution, and probation and parole. It will explore the impact that this form of crime has on individuals, businesses, and society.

Course Text

In addition, you must subscribe to the Wall Street Journal – both print and online formats. (See course website for link).

Class Preparation and Attendance

It is absolutely vital that you prepare each assignment in advance for each class meeting. Every assigned case and case problem must be briefed in writing and on separate paper. Directions on briefing cases and completing problems will be given during the first week of class.

You must also read the Wall Street Journal every day, including Saturday (you need to let the Journal know that you wish to have Saturday delivery as well – there is no extra charge for Saturday delivery.) The Journal costs $29.99 for 15 weeks (student rate.)
Every week, I will post links to certain articles that I believe you should read. In order to access the Wall Street Journal online articles, you must establish an online account with the Journal. It’s included in the student rate.

**Course Presentation**

You will be assigned a white collar offender to research. You must write a seven to ten page paper following the Presentation Guide distributed in class. You must also prepare a fifteen minute presentation for the class.

**Exams and Grading**

There are two midterm exams and one final exam. Each midterm will constitute 15% of the course grade. The final exam will constitute 35% of the course grade. The paper and presentation will constitute 20% of the course grade. The remaining 15% will be based upon attendance, class participation, and course presentation.

Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up exams. If for some reason you must miss an exam, you should arrange to take this course another semester.

Grades are determined by a careful process designed to ensure fairness. Therefore, grades will not be changed unless there has been a clerical or computational error.

**Grading System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0- 59</td>
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</tbody>
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This grading system utilizes plus/minus grades.
Reading Assignments (First Five Weeks of Course)

Week One

1. Read: Chapter 1 (All); Chapter 2 (17-23; 26; 32-35)

           People v. Lessoff & Berger (32-34)

Weeks Two and Three

1. Read: Chapter 3 (59-71; 77, Note 4; 77-81; 87-92)

           United States v. Arch Trading (67-70)
           United States v. Jimenez Recio (78-80)
           Pinkerton v. United States (87-90)

Weeks Four and Five

1. Read: Chapter 4 (93-99; 105-117; 142-155)

           United States v. Brown (100-104)
           McNally v. United States (105-112)
           Schmuck v. United States (142-147)
           United States v. Walters (148-152)