

# CRIM 451: WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Course Website (Blackboard):

You will use this website to check grades, stay abreast of course updates, and have access internet readings.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES

Recent decades have unveiled unprecedented interest, both legal and public, in the white-collar and corporate crimes in America brought on largely by the spectacular collapses of corporate giants in banking and insurance that contributed to the economic collapse of 2008. But what really are white-collar crimes? Who commits them? Why are they committed? And why doesn't society seem to care as much about these as they do about conventional street crimes? Among the several goals of this course is to address those questions as well as to accomplish the following:

- Have a general overview of the history and development of thinking about white-collar crimes;
- Be able to distinguish between white-collar and conventional street crimes;
- Be able to develop a systemic approach thinking about white-collar crimes by recognizing how white-collar crimes manifest themselves in most of the systems in society;
- Be able to describe various kinds of activities that constitute white-collar crimes;
- Be able to assess the effectiveness of criminological theories in explaining white-collar crimes;
- And finally to think critically about both the impact of these crimes and society's efforts to control them.

## COURSE ORGANIZATION:

### Readings:

- Payne, Brian K. 2016. *White-Collar Crime: The Essentials* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- Tillman, Robert H., Henry N. Pontell, & William K. Black. 2018. *Financial Crime and Crises in the Era of False Profits*. Oxford University Press: New York ISBN - 9780190639198

## COURSE GRADING:

Your final **grade** will be determined by your performance on three in-class exams (2 mid-term exams worth 100 points each and a final exam worth 150 points), two short reaction/response papers (25 points each), a media log (60 points) and summary paper (worth 40 points). The grading components are summarized as follows:

Three Exams (3 x 100 pts. each)	=	300 pts.
"False Profits" Book Review	=	100 pts.
Total	=	400 pts.

**The final grade scale is listed below:**

<b>A = 90 – 100%</b>	<b>B = 80 – 89%</b>
<b>C = 70 – 79%</b>	<b>D = 60 – 69%.</b>
<b>F = 59% or less.</b>	

**Exams:** Three online, timed exams will count prominently toward your final grade. The amount of time allotted for each exam will depend on the number of questions in that exam. Each exam will cover roughly one-third of the course materials. The exams will be similar in format, consisting of 35 to 50 multiple-choice questions and possibly short answer/essay questions that draw on lectures, readings, videos, and any guest speakers we may have. Each exam will be worth 100.

**Book Review:** You will read the book “Financial Crimes and Crises in the Era of False Profits” and then write a book review in which you provide a summary of the main contributions of the book as well as critiquing what you see as its primary strengths and weaknesses. More information about how to write a book review is provided on the assignments link on Blackboard.

**Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC), DSU 1074. The SARC telephone number is (270) 745-5004 or TDD: (270) 745-3030. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from SARC.**

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor or tampering with the academic work of other students. I will not tolerate it and any evidence of violations of this policy will result in a score of 0 for the assignment in question. Extreme cases may result in failure of the course without possibility of withdrawal.

## **TITLE IX MISCONDUCT/ASSAULT STATEMENT**

*Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and*

*Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at [https://wku.edu/policies/hr\\_policies/2040\\_discrimination\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf).*

*Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.*

*Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.*

## ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

*In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu) . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.*

## COURSE OUTLINE

Schedule	Topic	Reading Assignments
WEEK 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and overview:</li> <li>• Defining White-Collar Crime</li> <li>• Crime in Sales-Related Occupations &amp; Systems</li> <li>• Crime in the Health Care System</li> <li>• Crime in Institutions of Control: Criminal Justice, Government, and Religion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter I in Payne</li> <li>• Chapter II in Payne</li> <li>• Chapter III in Payne</li> <li>• Chapter IV in Payne</li> <li>• Chapter V in Payne</li> <li>• Read Chapters 1 – 3 in Tillman, Pontell, and Black</li> </ul>
<b>Fri Jan 5 -Sun Jan 7 EXAM 1</b>		
WEEK 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crimes in the Educational System</li> <li>• Crime in the Housing System</li> <li>• Corporate Crime</li> <li>• Crime in Economic System</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter VI Payne</li> <li>• Chapter IX in Payne</li> <li>• Chapter X in Payne</li> <li>• Chapter VII in Payne</li> <li>• Read Chapters 4 – 6 in Tillman, Pontell, and Black</li> </ul>
<b>Fri Jan 12 - Sun Jan14 EXAM 2</b>		

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WEEK 3	Crime in Cyber Systems	• Chapter VIII in Payne
	Environmental Crime	• Chapter XI in Payne
	Explaining White-Collar Crime	• Chapter XII in Payne

**WED Jan 17 “Financial Crime” Book Review Due**

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**Fri Jan 19 - Sun Jan 21 Final Exam**

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