White Collar & Organized Crime
CRIJ 4321 90L, 91L

Dr. Mario Davila
Fall 2020
Office: BMSLC 3.239
Office Phone: 956.882.7759
E-Mail: mario.davila@utrgv.edu
Monday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (via Zoom)
Or by Appointment

***If you need to reach me via email, do not use Blackboard to email me. Email me directly from your UTRGV email account. Thank you.

Online Asynchronous Courses: These courses will be delivered fully online. There will be no designated class meeting time for real-time instructor/student interaction, which gives you the flexibility to engage with the course materials as best fits your daily schedule. Your learning will be guided by the digital presentation of the course content (e.g., recorded lectures, presentations, outlines, notes) and scheduled assignments. Your
instructors will provide you with feedback on assigned work, communicate with you electronically, and be available to meet as defined on this syllabus.

COVID-19 RESOURCES:
Please visit the UTRGV COVID-19 Website via the following link for the most up-to-date information and resources (https://www.utrgv.edu/coronavirus/index.htm). This includes information on self-screening questions, links to forms for travel and contact, etc.

Face Covering Protocol:
As part of the university’s ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts to maintain a healthy environment for all members of our campus community, anyone entering a campus building must wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose. The covering must be worn in all hallways, public spaces, research labs, teaching/computer labs, libraries, classrooms, automobiles with a passenger, stairwells, elevators and common areas, as well as office spaces. In office spaces, when social distancing of 6 feet is possible and maintained, face coverings may be removed. Face coverings also are required in outdoor settings when safe social distancing and gathering practices are not possible.

Course Description:
(A) CRIJ 4321 will examine issues in white collar and organized crime. This course will introduce students to the history, theoretical explanations and structure of organized and white-collar crimes. Areas of examination include but are not be limited to the following: (1) drug trafficking, (2) gambling, (3) loan sharking, and (4) business/corporate crimes. Investigative methods and legislative policy considerations will be discussed.

(B) Examination of white-collar and organized crime. Topics may include the nature and types of elite deviance such as corporate deviance, political corruption, crimes of the government, and human rights’ violations. Prerequisites: ENGL 1301 (or ENGL 1387) and (ENGL 1302 (or ENGL 1388) or ENGL 1305) with a grade of 'C' or better and sophomore standing.

UT RGV Criminal Justice Student Learning Outcomes:

*1. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure, operations, and practices of the major components of the criminal justice system which include police, courts, corrections, and law.

2. Explain the fundamentals of research methods and statistical techniques used in criminal justice research (covered in this course).

3. Apply critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and communication skills through classroom assignment.

4. Demonstrate know of criminological theory and crime control techniques.

*Criminal Justice Department SLO’s linked to this course.
Course Objectives:

With the successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

First Goal: Students will recall, classify, and discuss the nature, history, and theories of organized crime and white-collar crime. Students will additionally discuss the investigation, prosecution, defense, and sentencing of criminals, discuss the causes and impacts or organized/white-collar crime, and discuss the methods of investigating and preventing organized/white-collar crimes. Consistent with Criminal Justice Department SLO 1.

(a) The student will complete assigned reading and be prepared to discuss the readings in class/discussion boards.

(b) The student will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the assigned material through examinations.

(c) Students will discuss the nature, history, and theories of organized crime/white-collar crime in class/discussion boards.

Second Goal:
Students will demonstrate verbal communication and writing skills.

(a) Students will submit 1 research paper by evaluating research methods, statistics, and policy implications of peer reviewed research on Organized/White-Collar Crime.

Required Texts:

ISBN-10: 0133571734

This textbook is NOT an open educational resource.

Amazon Pricing:
Rent: $16.03
Buy: $159.98
Used: prices vary
eTextook: $69.99

Follet Pricing:
New: $164.25
Used: $123.25
Rental Used: $75.76

This textbook is NOT an open educational resource.

Amazon Pricing:
Rent: $32.39
Buy: $75.21
Used: prices vary
eTextook: $60.99

Follet Pricing:
New: $183.00
Used: $137.25
Rental New: $146.40
Rental Used: $84.18

Course Requirements:

Research Paper: Students are to procure 5 individual research articles on White Collar Crime and Organized Crime. All 5 articles must be acquired from peer reviewed academic journals. Students will summarize each article (do not copy and paste the abstract, you will receive a failing grade for that article), include all the pertinent journal and author information, discuss the importance of each article, the data collection methods used, the statistical techniques (i.e., ANOVA, ANCOVA, Logistic Regression, etc.), research findings, and policy implications for each of the 5 articles. Each article assignment must be a minimum of 450 words in length. Research papers NOT meeting the minimum required word length (2,250 words) will receive a 50-point deduction for the project for failing to follow instructions. There will be 20 point deductions for each of the following infractions: (1) failure to have a cover page (cover page is not included in the word count minimum – only 1 cover page required); (2) failure to use double-spacing; (3) failure to use Times New Roman font; (4) failure to use 12 font size; and (5) failure to submit a reference page (cover page is not included in the word count minimum). Students will also be penalized 20 points if they submit any incorrect files to blackboard. APA format is required. You will need to submit your paper to SAFEASSIGN in order to receive credit for your research project. I will not accept any paper that exceeds 20% replication. Each completed article is worth 20% of the total 100% of the project.

Examinations (2): Two multiple choice examinations will be given in the course.

Discussion Boards:.........................18% of grade (3% each – 6 total)

Research Assignment:.........................32% of grade
Examination One:............................25% of grade
Examination Two:............................25% of grade
Total:...........................................100%
Grading System:
A = 100-90
B = 89-80
C = 79-70
D = 69-60
F = 59 and below

***Course Grade is based on a grade percentage weight system, **NOT** an accumulation of blackboard points.

Recommendations:

1. **Be an Active Learner:**
   "Active Learning" is, in short, anything that students do in a classroom other than merely passively listening to an instructor's lecture. This includes everything from listening practices which help the students to absorb what they hear, to short writing exercises in which students react to lecture material, to complex group exercises in which students apply course material to "real life" situations and/or to new problems. - *Active Learning for the College Classroom* (Paulson and Faust, California State University, Los Angeles, 1998)

2. **Read your textbook and notes:**
   Students should be reading 24-36 hours per week if they have a 12 credit hour course load. Students should be reading 30-45 hours per week if they have a 15 credit hour course load.  

**The Ramses rule:**

As a general rule of thumb, professors are allowed up to 48 hours to respond to student email inquiries. That being said, remain patient and do NOT send a second email regarding the same issue. More importantly, NEVER contact the secretary or department chair and ask them to contact the professor and tell them to check their email. Furthermore, don’t expect responses during the weekends as professors have families, lives, and other responsibilities. Not all professors choose or care to check their emails via their cell phones or to check their email during the evening hours or weekends (this may not apply to online courses).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive reasonable academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for
approval, the student must apply using the mySAS portal located at www.utrgv.edu/mySAS and is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS. Students are required to participate in an interactive discussion, or an intake appointment, with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not retroactive, meaning they are valid once approved by SAS. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to apply to **Student Accessibility Services** using the following link: [Pregnancy Accommodations Request Form](https://www.utrgv.edu/pregnancy)

**Student Accessibility Services:**

**Brownsville Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**Edinburg Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

- **Module 1**: October 7-13, 2020
- **Module 2**: December 2-8, 2020
- **Full Fall Semester**: November 13 – December 2, 2020

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion;
submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities. Your grade, academic standing, and personal/professional reputation are at stake.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (OIED@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR (drop) until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Student Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills,
degree planning, and student employment. In addition, services such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advising Center</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em><a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a></em></td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400</td>
<td>ESWKH 101A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
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<td><strong>Career Center</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em><a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a></em></td>
<td>BINAB 1.105</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101</td>
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<td>(956) 882-5627</td>
<td>(956) 665-2243</td>
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<td><strong>Counseling Center</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em><a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a></em></td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10</td>
<td>EUCTR 109</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(956) 882-3897</td>
<td>(956) 665-2574</td>
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<td><strong>Counseling and Related Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Food Pantry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em><a href="mailto:FoodPantry@utrgv.edu">FoodPantry@utrgv.edu</a></em></td>
<td>BCAVL 101 &amp; 102</td>
<td>EUCTR 114</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(956) 882-7126</td>
<td>(956) 665-3663</td>
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<td><strong>Learning Center</strong></td>
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<td><em><a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a></em></td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118</td>
<td>ELCTR 100</td>
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<td>(956) 882-8208</td>
<td>(956) 665-2585</td>
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<td><em><a href="mailto:WC@utrgv.edu">WC@utrgv.edu</a></em></td>
<td>BUBLB 3.206</td>
<td>ESTAC 3.119</td>
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<td>(956) 882-7065</td>
<td>(956) 665-2538</td>
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**Blackboard Support**
If you need assistance with course technology at any time, please contact the *Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology* (COLTT).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus:</th>
<th>Brownsville</th>
<th>Edinburg</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Casa Bella (BCASA) 613</td>
<td>Education Complex (EEDUC) 2.202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>956-882-6792</td>
<td>956-665-5327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Toll Free: 1-866-654-4555*
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Support Tickets Submit a Support Case via our *Ask COLTT Portal*

24/7 Blackboard Support
Need Blackboard assistance after hours? You can call our main office numbers, 956-882-6792 or 956-665-5327, to speak with a support representative.

Late Work Policy:
Each student is urged to submit each and every assignment on its given due date (does not apply to discussion boards). There will be a 10-point deduction on any assignment for each day it is late. 2 day maximum. A written request is required to submit a late research paper.

Important Notices:
**Course design adapted from Sanford-Brown College (CJ 430 – Organized & White Collar Crime).**

Aug. 24    First day of classes
Aug. 27    Last day to add a class or register for Fall 2020 classes
Sept. 7    Labor Day – NO classes
Nov. 11    Last day to drop a class or withdraw
Nov. 26- 27 Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
Dec. 3     Study Day – NO classes
Dec. 4-10  Final Exams

**CRIJ 4321 - Course Schedule – Fall 2020**

**** Important Note: All exams, discussion boards, and/or assignments/papers in this course are due at 9:59 p.m. on their respective due date.

Week 1 – 8/24 – 8/30 – Read Chapter 1 – *The Discovery of White-Collar Crime* in Trusted Criminals

Week 2 – 8/31 – 9/6 – Read Chapter 3 – *Corporate Crime* from Trusted Criminals – **Complete Discussion Board 1**

Week 3 – 9/7 – 9/13 – Read Chapter 4 *Occupational Crime & Avocational Crime* from Trusted Criminals

Week 4 – 9/14 – 9/20 – Read Chapter 5 – *Governmental Crime: State Crime & Political White-Collar Crime* from Trusted Criminals – **Complete Discussion Board 2**


Week 6 – 9/28 – 10/4 – Read Chapter 9 – *Law & the Social Control of White-Collar Crime* from Trusted Criminals – **Complete Discussion Board 3**

Week 7 – 10/5 – 10/11 – Read Chapter 10 – *Policing & Regulating White-Collar Crime* from Trusted Criminals

Week 8 – 10/12 – 10/18 – Read Chapter 11 – *Prosecuting, Defending, & Adjudicating White Collar Crime* from Trusted Criminals **Complete Exam 1**

Week 9 – 10/19 – 10/25 – Read Chapter 1 – *Understanding Organized Crime* from Organized Crime
Week 10 – 10/26 – 11/1 – Read Chapter 3 – *The Evolution of Organized Crime* from Organized Crime – **Complete Discussion Board 4**

Week 11 – 11/2 – 11/8 – Read Chapter 4 – *The Evolution of Organized Crime* from Organized Crime


Week 13 – 11/16 – 11/22 – Read Chapter 6 – *The Illicit Drug Trade* from Organized Crime & Read Chapter 7 – *Domestic Organized Crime Groups* from Organized Crime - **Complete Discussion Board 6**


Week 15 – 11/30 – 12/6 – Read Chapter 11 – *Controlling Organized Crime* from Organized Crime - **Complete Exam 2**