SPRING, 2014

SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN CRIMINAL LAW
Seminar: Organized Crime: How Organizations Shape Morals

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Professor: Pam Pierson
Office: Room 336
Email: ppierson@law.ua.edu

Office Hours: 9:00-11:00 AM, Tuesdays
Telephone: 205-348-1139

II. COURSE MATERIAL

Required:
Prepared Course Materials (may be purchased from the bookstore).

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will look at how organizations influence moral decision making of its members. We will do so by focusing on three organizations: the Mafia, Enron, and Penn State.

IV. CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Be on time
2. Attendance is required. You may miss class only for good cause.

If either of the above requirements cause you a hardship, please speak to me.

V. GRADING POLICY

Your grade in this course will be based upon three things with the weight of each generally allocated as shown: class participation (20%), class presentation (20%), and paper (60%).

Your seminar paper should be at least 20 pages in length and not exceed 25 pages. You should use footnotes with Bluebook citation form. Choose one individual who has committed crime(s) within an organization and address the following:
(a) Description of the criminal activity;
(b) Your paper topic’s role in the activity;
(c) Was he/she a “leader” or “follower”? How so?;
(d) At one point did he/she realize that he/she has “crossed the line” into wrongful behavior (versus not focusing, not paying attention, not understanding the big picture, etc.);
(e) What motivated him/her? Greed, arrogance, fear, other reasons? Why did the followers go along?
(f) What was the culture of the relevant organization? Did it encourage the fraud? If so, how?
(g) What could have prevented the criminal activity?

VI. ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning, and other disabilities, and provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each person's specific requirements. The Law School's assistant deans and the University's Office of Disability Services work together to help individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain individual autonomy. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Claude Arrington, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at (205) 348-5751 or carrington@law.ua.edu so that the individual's needs for support services can be evaluated and accommodated in a timely manner.

VII. USES OF TECHNOLOGY

Students may use portable computing or other electronic devices in the classroom for education [or class] use only. Students shall not use portable computer or other electronic devices in an inappropriate manner during class. Inappropriate uses include any and all uses of a portable computing or other electronic device not directly related to the class in session. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following: displaying web pages, receiving, reading, composing, or sending e-mail or instant messages; making or receiving phone calls; taking photographs or videos playing video in any format; recording or making audio tapes or files; and playing games.

Students who appear to be using electronic devices inappropriately will be asked to leave the class session immediately. The class session will be counted as an absence for the day. If you have any question about this class rule, please feel free to contact me.
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Syllabus

Wednesday, January 8
No reading

Overview of Course

Wednesday, January 15
pp. 1-51

I. Organized Crime: La Cosa Nostra

A. Introduction

Wednesday, January 22
No reading

MOVIE: The Good Fellas

Wednesday, January 29
pp. 52-74


*United States v. Bufalino*

Wednesday, February 5
pp. 75-85

*United States v. Brandao*
**Wednesday, February 12**
pp. 86 and CONSPIRACY OF FOOLS, by Kurt Eichenwald

**II. White Collar Crime: Case Study: Enron**

18 U.S.C. § 1341 (Frauds and Swindles)
18 U.S.C. § 1346 (Scheme or Artifice to Defraud)

Discussion of Conspiracy of Fools

**Wednesday, February 19**
pp. 87-100

Un**i**ted States v. Skilling

**Wednesday, February 26**
No reading

MOVIE: Smartest Guy in the Room

**Wednesday, March 5**
pp. 101-209

**III. Football: Report of the Special Investigative Counsel Regarding the Actions of The Pennsylvania State University Related to the Child Sexual Abuse Committed by Gerald A. Sandusky (Freh Report)**

**Wednesday, March 12**
pp. 210-316

**Freeh Report continued**

**Wednesday, March 19**
No class. Individual conferences with Professor Pierson.

**Wednesday, March 26**
NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK.

**Wednesday, April 2**
CLASS PRESENTATIONS

**Wednesday, April 9**
CLASS PRESENTATIONS
Wednesday, April 16
CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, April 17
CLASS PARTY. Dinner at the Piersons’

Dinner at the Piersons’, 6:30-8:30 PM
Spouses and significant others invited

Directions from law school:
- Take 82 West to Jack Warner Parkway.
- Take Jack Warner Parkway toward “Downtown Tuscaloosa”.
- Go through traffic lights at “Hackberry” and “Marrs Spring”.
- Take the next left, onto Sherwood Drive - go up two houses to the stop sign and turn right into the cul-de-sac.
- #8 Sherwood Drive is in the middle, on your left (two rocking chairs on the porch).

Attire: Casual. Weather permitting we will be outside.

RSVP if declining: ppierson@law.ua.edu