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

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Professor: Pam Pierson  Office Hours: 10:00-11:30 AM, Wednesdays
Office: Room 336  Telephone: 205-348-1139
Email: ppierson@law.ua.edu

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 members. We will look at four organizations: the Mafia, Enron, Penn State, and the law practice of Steven R. Donziger.

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 your class participation (approximately 30% of final grade) and paper (approximately 70% of final grade).

Your seminar paper should be double-spaced and at least 20 pages in length but not exceed 25 pages. You should use footnotes with Bluebook citation form. Use your discretion as to when or if textual footnotes are needed. Choose one organization and focus on one individual who has committed crime(s) within the organization. Address the following:
(a) Description of the criminal activity
(b) The individual’s role in the activity
(c) Was the individual a “leader” or “follower”? How so?
(d) At one point did the individual realize that he/she “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? Why did the followers go along?
(f) What was the culture of the relevant organization? Did it encourage the crime(s)? If so, how?
(g) What (or who) could have prevented the criminal activity? How?

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 7
No reading

Overview of Course

Wednesday, January 14
pp. 1-47

I. Organized Crime: La Cosa Nostra

A. Introduction

Wednesday, January 21
No reading assignment

MOVIE: The Good Fellas

Wednesday, January 28
pp. 48-89

United States v. Bufalino
United States v. Brandao

News stories about RICO;

Wednesday, February 4

II. White Collar Crime: Case Study: Enron

CONSPIRACY OF FOOLS,
by Kurt Eichenwald

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 11**

pp. 90-113  
*United States v. Skilling*  
Indictment, *United States v. Skilling*

**Wednesday, February 18**

No reading assignment  
MOVIE: Smartest Guys in the Room

**Wednesday, February 25**

pp. 114-301  
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 (Freeh Report)

**Wednesday, March 4**

No reading assignment  
MOVIE: 365 Days in Happy Valley

**Wednesday, March 11**

pp. 302-332  
*Chevron v. Steven Donziger*

**Wednesday, March 18**

NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK.

**Wednesday, March 25**

No reading assignment  
MOVIE: Crude

**Wednesday, April 1**

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

**Wednesday, April 8**

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

**Wednesday, April 15**

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

**Monday, April 20**

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