Criminal Justice Seminar 496 (01:202:**496:02**) ▊▊▊▊▊▊▊
STATE-CORPORATE CRIME
Fall 2020 Syllabus
*This course is formatted as **asynchronous**, 'online-only.'*
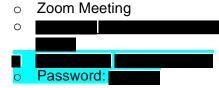Asynchronous (AS) Course
Last Updated 19 Oct 2020

ADMIN INFO

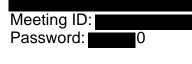|	
Instructor:	**Kenneth Sebastian León, PhD**
E-mail:	▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊
Course Management	**Canvas** (not Sakai). https://tlt.rutgers.edu/canvas
	Contact help@canvas.rutgers.edu for access.

Optional synchronous class meetings will be held on ▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊,
starting Wednesday Sep. 30. The zoom link is below, and also posted to our updated syllabus.
  o   Zoom Meeting
  o   ▊▊▊▊|▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊.
       ▊▊▊
       ▊ ▊▊▊▊▊ | ▊▊▊▊▊
  o   Password: ▊▊▊

OFFICE HOURS
Standing office hours will be on **MONDAYS** from **9:30a-10:30a** via Zoom **or** regular phone call to my office landline.

Zoom Meeting Info
▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊▊

Meeting ID: ▊▊▊▊▊▊▊
Password: ▊▊▊▊0

RU Office Landline
▊▊▊▊▊▊

COURSE OVERVIEW
This senior seminar provides an advanced introduction to white-collar crime, corporate crime, and state crime in the United States. The course begins with an overview of the differences in how we conceptualize the word *crime*, which include legalistic, administrative, normative, and sociological definitions. Students will gain a solid footing in white-collar crime, but most of the attention will be focused on the ways that state crime, corporate crime, and crimes of the powerful relate to each other in not only academic terms, but to our everyday lives.

This is a **reading-intensive course with weekly 'mini' writing assignments**, limited to seniors in the Criminal Justice major. Students who find themselves struggling with the reading demands of this course are urged to make use of all institutional academic support resources – which include office hours – throughout the entirety of the semester.

As a supplemental resource, consider the following reading guide from Dr. Miriam Sweeney, which is relevant for both graduate and undergraduate students: https://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/

Additional resources for how to maximize your reading and study strategies include:
- o https://pne.people.si.umich.edu › PDF › howtoread
- o https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/how-read-book-two-hours-or-less
- o https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2010/11/skim

COVID-19 Academic Continuity Statement
This course is designed with the exigencies of the novel 2020 coronavirus pandemic in mind. Please read this syllabus carefully and in its entirety to ensure that the structure of this course is compatible with your academic and learning-related needs. Specific policies and practices to ensure your success in this course during these challenging circumstances include:
- While this is an asynchronous course, you will receive written, individualized feedback from me on a weekly basis via **Canvas**.
- To encourage a sense of community among those who are willing and able to participate, every week I will hold a 60-minute block of time for OPTIONAL group discussions or group tutoring sessions. This time will be dedicated to fielding any questions or engaging with any collective comments or inquiries that you might have about the readings, and/or provide supplemental instruction to reinforce learning objectives. This is entirely optional, and designed to give students the opportunity to connect with their classmates and ensure that they have access to the professor for additional instruction.
- I respectfully encourage all students to be transparent with their communication preferences. Not everyone will want to use their video-camera, and I will poll students to better understand the various preferences for communicating, which range from: e-mail announcements; Canvas announcements; Zoom audio-video calls; Zoom "audio-only" calls; or traditional phone calls between your device and my Rutgers office phone line.
- You or someone you know may experience significant mental or physiological health challenges. In a global pandemic, you or someone you know may become ill or faced with other significant strains. Over the course of the semester, if you experience a situation that affects your ability to learn, I respectfully urge you to use the mode of communication that works best to communicate such developments with your instructors, Department Chairs, and/or the Office of the Dean of Students. We are here to make the most of a challenging situation and contribute to your academic and professional success.

LEARNING GOALS
This course will directly advance the learning goals of the Criminal Justice major. Additionally, students who successfully complete this class will have demonstrated competencies in being able to:
- Cultivate proficiency in understanding the political economy of crime and justice institutions;
- Understand how state-corporate forces shape the nature and function of crime and justice systems;

- Develop a nuanced understanding of power, race, class, and capital and apply those frameworks to everyday criminal justice topics;
- Understand the relationship between colonialism, capitalism, and criminology and criminal justice;
- Understand the inherent political dimensions of this scholarship, and the limitations to "anti-capitalist" critiques; and how to move beyond the tired and false dichotomies between "pro/anti" political orientations;
- Gain practical skills in how to locate and make sense of existing criminal justice data that pertain to crimes of the powerful, while recognizing the limitations or imperfections of these data sources;
- Engage in respectful written (and if you choose to do so, verbal) dialogue on issues of power and formal social control.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE LIBRARY

In lieu of not having a conventional textbook, there are **four** required books for this course. These texts have been secured as electronic course reserves (e-books) through RU Libraries. In the event that Book #4 is unavailable as a RU Library course reserve by October 1, 2020, the text will be made freely available in PDF format via Canvas. (I do not ask students to use their own funds to access my book.)

BOOK #1
Corruption in America: From Benjamin Franklin's Snuff Box to Citizens United
by Zephyr Teachout
Harvard University Press
https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674659988
ISBN 0674659988
https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/rutgers-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3301479

BOOK #2
The Corporate Criminal: Why Corporations Must be Abolished, by Steve Tombs and David Whyte
Routledge
https://www.routledge.com/The-Corporate-Criminal-Why-Corporations-Must-Be-Abolished/Tombs-Whyte/p/book/9780415556378
ISBN 9780415556378
https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/rutgers-ebooks/detail.action?docID=2005357

BOOK #3
We Sell Drugs – The Alchemy of U.S. Empire
By Suzanna Reiss
University of California Press
https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520280786/we-sell-drugs
ISBN: 9780520280786

BOOK #4
Corrupt Capital – Alcohol, Nightlife, and Crimes of the Powerful
By Kenneth Sebastian León
Routledge

3

Last Updated: 19 Oct 2020

https://www.routledge.com/Corrupt-Capital-Alcohol-Nightlife-and-Crimes-of-the-Powerful/Leon/p/book/9780367185817
ISBN 9780367185817
Available by October 1, 2020.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND GRADING
The cumulative grade is weighted to reflect the following components.

Percentage of Cumulative Final Grade

Weekly Reading Summaries	30%
Midterm Essay (Take Home; Open Book)	35%
Final Exam Essay (Take Home; Open Book)	35%

GRADING SCALE

A=93-100, B+=89-92, B=81-88, C+=77-80, C=70-76, D=65-69, F=64 and below

IMPORTANT DATES

Sep. 1	Semester Begins
Sep. 11	Last Day to ADD a course
Sep. 14	Last day to DROP a course
Oct. 13	Deadline for voter registration. Register to Vote Here (NJ)
~~Oct. 20~~	~~Midterm Released~~
Oct. 22	**Midterm Released (11am EST)**
~~Oct. 23~~	~~Midterm Due via Canvas Upload: 5pm EST~~
Oct. 30	**Midterm Due via Canvas Upload: 11:59pm EST**
Nov. 2	**No midterm exams accepted after 8am EST**
Nov. 3	Election Day
Nov. 30	Last day to WITHDRAW with a W
Dec. 10	End of Classes
Dec. 11	**Final Exam Released**
Dec. 20	**Final Exam Due via Canvas Upload: 7pm EST**

Final Exam Released by December 14, 9am EST
Final Exam Responses due by 7pm EST on Sunday, December 20th via Canvas Upload

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Last Updated: 19 Oct 2020