

**COURSE:** LAWS 4302B - REGULATION OF CORPORATE CRIME

**TERM:** Winter 2012

**PREREQUISITES:** Fourth year standing or permission of the department

**CLASS:** Day & Time: Thursdays 2:35 PM to 5:25 PM  
Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jamie Brownlee  
**(CONTRACT)**

**CONTACT:** Office: Loeb B442  
Office Hrs: Thursdays 1:25 PM to 2:25 PM (or by appointment)  
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"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary Letters of Accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodations. For further information, please see: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accommodations> . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by 7 March 2012 for April exams. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: [www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)

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### **Course Description**

Drawing on a wide range of empirical and theoretical issues, this course critically examines the nature, scope and impact of corporate crime in Canadian society and around the world. A key focus of the course is how the modern, for-profit corporation functions as a social institution whose existence and capacity to operate depends upon the law. We will analyze the legal and administrative frameworks that define and regulate corporate crime, and use examples to illustrate the limitations associated with existing laws and regulations against corporate criminality. We will also explore how, in some cases, the law is not only limited in its ability to constrain corporate crime, it actually facilitates it. Throughout the course, we will broaden the analysis with a sociological lens to examine the problem of corporate crime within the context of political and economic power relations, and to talk about how corporations influence the policy-making process and our political and legal systems. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the socio-economic conditions that underlie corporate crime and to identify opportunities for engagement with these issues beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

## **Course Text and Reading Materials**

There are two required texts for this course. They can be purchased at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue.

- Bakan, Joel. 2004. *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Toronto: Viking.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines.

All other required readings will be available through WebCT.

## **Course Requirements and Evaluation**

### **1. CLASS PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE & PRESENTATIONS 25%**

This is a reading intensive course. Students are strongly encouraged to keep up with the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. This is also a student-driven course, meaning that students are expected to be active participants. The grade for this requirement will be distributed over a variety of kinds of participation throughout the term, including class participation (e.g., raising questions and making observations related to the readings, and thoughtful engagement with the ideas expressed by others), attendance and presentations.

Seminar participants will be expected to present on the readings and facilitate seminar discussions once during the term. The presentations will begin the second class. The purpose of the presentations is to briefly review and analyze the main arguments and themes presented in the readings, and then stimulate class discussion. Oral presentations should be approximately 15 minutes.

### **2. SHORT ASSIGNMENT, DUE FEBRUARY 16TH 20%**

This short assignment paper will give students the opportunity to analyze a corporation's record as it relates to corporate crime. The paper should be approximately 6-7 double-spaced pages. Additional details to follow in class.

### **3. CRITICAL REACTION PAPER 20%**

The critical reaction paper will involve writing a critically reflective piece of approximately 6-7 double-spaced pages on all of the readings from one of the weeks during the term. The paper should briefly summarize some of the main arguments of the readings and then analyze and compare the arguments within them. The point of the paper is to allow a more sustained engagement with the topic and to critically assess the arguments presented. No other sources are expected to be used in the writing of this paper. Please note that for the critical reaction paper, students are required to choose from one of the weeks when they are **not** presenting on the readings.

**4. FINAL PAPER, DUE APRIL 5TH****35%**

Students can select their own topic, understanding that it must be relevant to the theoretical and substantive issues addressed in the seminar. While the paper can engage with some of the weekly readings, it must also reference additional academic sources. Papers will be graded on the quality of your research, strength of your arguments, and your ability to situate your arguments within existing debates. Students are encouraged to discuss paper ideas with me at any point during the course. The final paper should be approximately 15 double-spaced pages.

Please keep a **hard copy** of all work that is submitted.

**Grades**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p. 45), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.

**Academic Regulations, Accommodations and Plagiarism**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv.html>

**Requests for Academic Accommodations***For Students with Disabilities:*

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

*For Religious Obligations:*

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to the instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event.

Accommodation will be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

*For Pregnancy:*

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

*What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?*

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

*What are the Procedures?*

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs.

The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <http://www2.carleton.ca/graduate-studies/policies-and-guidelines>).

## **Assistance for Students**

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): [www.carleton.ca/sasc](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc)

Writing Tutorial Services: [www.carleton.ca/wts](http://www.carleton.ca/wts)

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): [www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass\\_home/index.html](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass_home/index.html)

## **Course Calendar**

### **WEEK ONE – JANUARY 5TH**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- Introduction to the course: themes, readings and assignments
- Presentation schedule

### **WEEK TWO – JANUARY 12TH**

#### **THE COMMONS, PRIVATE PROPERTY & THE RISE OF THE MODERN CORPORATION**

##### **READINGS**

- Rifkin, Jeremy. 1991. "A Private Nature" in *Biosphere Politics: A New Consciousness for a New Century*. New York: Crown. pp. 38-47.
- Coulter, Karen. 2006. "The Role of Property." *Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy*. pp. 1-11.
- Bakan, Joel. 2004. "The Corporation's Rise to Dominance" in *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Toronto: Viking. pp. 5-27.
- Grossman, Richard and Frank Adams. 1993. "Taking Care of Business: Citizenship and the Charter of Incorporation." *Earth Island Journal*, Spring. pp. 1-18.
- Hartmann, Thom. 2004. "The Robots Take Over" in *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight*. New York: Three Rivers Press. pp. 215-221.

### **WEEK THREE – JANUARY 19TH**

#### **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP & CRIMINOGENIC PERSONHOOD**

##### **READINGS**

- Bakan, Joel. 2004. "Business as Usual" in *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Toronto: Viking. pp. 28-59.
- Bakan, Joel. 2004. "The Externalizing Machine" in *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Toronto: Viking. pp. 60-84.
- Kovel, Joel. "Capital" in *The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World?* Halifax: Fernwood. pp. 26-46.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "The Corporations as an Invisible Friend" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 6-14.

### **WEEK FOUR – JANUARY 26TH**

#### **NEOLIBERALISM, (DE)-REGULATION & CORPORATE POLITICAL POWER**

##### **READINGS**

- Bakan, Joel. 2004. "Democracy Ltd." in *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Toronto: Viking. pp. 111-138.
- Snider, Lauren. 2000. "The Sociology of Corporate Crime: An Obituary." *Theoretical Criminology* 4 (2): 169-193.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "Government in Their Own Image: Corporations and Political Power" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 229-251.
- Chaves, Elisabeth. 2011. "Money's Been Talking: How *Citizens United v. FEC* Obscures the View of the Role of Wealth in Our Democracy." American Political Science Association 2011 Annual Meeting. pp. 1-22.

**WEEK FIVE – FEBRUARY 2ND****THE CORPORATE VEIL: REGULATORY SANCTIONS, CRIMINAL LIABILITY & THE IDEOLOGY OF MARKET CAPITALISM****READINGS**

- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "The Small and the Ugly" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 37-60.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "Corporate Deviance and Deviants: The Fancy Footwork of Criminal Law" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 118-143.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "'It's Not a Crime': Reclassifying Corporate Deviance" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 144-167.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "New Corporate Responsibilities – Or More Window Dressing?" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 168-182.

**WEEK SIX – FEBRUARY 9TH****AIDING AND ABETTING: CORPORATE ADVERTIZING & THE PUBLIC RELATIONS INDUSTRY****READINGS**

- Karliner, Joshua. 1997. "The Emerald City" in *The Corporate Planet: Ecology and Politics in the Age of Globalization*. San Francisco: Sierra Club. pp. 168-194.
- Beder, Sharon. 1997. "Fronting for Industry" in *Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing. Pp. 27-35.
- Rampton, Sheldon and John Stauber. 2001. "Packaging the Beast" in *Trust Us, We're Experts!* New York: Penguin Putnam. pp. 99-119.
- Stauber, John and Sheldon Rampton. 1995. "Smokers' Hacks" in *Toxic Sludge is Good for You: Lies, Damn Lies and the Public Relations Industry*. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press. pp. 25-32.
- Beder, Sharon. 2009. "Turning Children into Consumers" and "Branding Childish Identities" in *This Little Kiddy Went to Market: The Corporate Capture of Childhood*. London: Pluto Press. pp. 6-22; 37-50.

**WEEK SEVEN – FEBRUARY 16TH****UNSAFE PRODUCTS / UNSAFE PRODUCTION: HEALTH & SAFETY CRIMES****READINGS**

- Rampton, Sheldon and John Stauber. 2001. "Dying for a Living" in *Trust Us, We're Experts!* New York: Penguin Putnam. pp. 75-98.
- McMullan, John and Sherman Hinze. 1999. "Westray: The Press, Ideology, and Corporate Crime." In C. McCormick (ed.), *The Westray Chronicles: A Case Study in Corporate Crime*. Halifax: Fernwood. pp. 183-217.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "The Westray Story" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 61-66.
- Gioia, Dennis. 1996. "Why I Didn't Recognize Pinto Fire Hazards: How Organizational Scripts Channel Managers' Thoughts and Actions." In M.D. Ermann and R. Lundman (eds.), *Corporate and Governmental Deviance*. New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 139-155.
- Rosoff, Stephen, Henry Pontell and Robert Tillman. 2004. "Unsafe Products" In *Profit Without Honor: White Collar Crime and the Looting of America*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall. pp. 95-102.

**WEEK EIGHT – MARCH 1ST**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT****READINGS**

- Faber, Daniel. 2008. "The Unfair Trade-Off: Globalization and the Export of Ecological Hazards" in *Capitalizing on Environmental Injustice: The Polluter-Industrial Complex in the Age of Globalization*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. pp.171-212.
- Karliner, Joshua. 1997. "The Greening of Global Reach" in *The Corporate Planet: Ecology and Politics in the Age of Globalization*. San Francisco: Sierra Club. pp. 30-47.
- Katz, Rebecca. 2010. "The Corporate Crimes of Dow Chemical and the Failure to Regulate Environmental Pollution." *Critical Criminology* 18 (4): 295-306.
- Environmental Defence. 2008. "Canada's Toxic Tar Sands: The Most Destructive Project on Earth" pp. 7-28. Available at: [http://environmentaldefence.ca/sites/default/files/report\\_files/TarSands\\_TheReport.pdf](http://environmentaldefence.ca/sites/default/files/report_files/TarSands_TheReport.pdf)

**WEEK NINE – MARCH 8TH**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE & THE CRIMINALITY OF DENIAL****READINGS**

- Lynch, Michael, Ronald Burns and Paul Stretesly. 2010. "Global Warming and State-Corporate Crime: The Politicalization of Global Warming under the Bush Administration." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 54 (3-4): 213-234.
- Derber, Charles. 2010. "Scientists United," "The X-Rated Truth" and "The Denial Regime" in *Greed to Green: Solving Climate Change and Remaking the Economy*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm. pp. 24-46 and 74-87.
- Gutstein, Donald. 2009. "Delaying Action on Climate Change" in *Not a Conspiracy Theory: How Big Business Hijacks Democracy*. Toronto: Key Porter Books. pp. 227-259.
- Monbiot, George. 2009. "Canada's Image Lies in Tatters." *The Guardian*, November 30<sup>th</sup>. pp. 1-4.

**WEEK TEN – MARCH 15TH**  
**STATE-CORPORATE CRIME: HUMAN RIGHTS & MODERN WARFARE****READINGS**

- Scahill, Jeremy. 2007. *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*. New York: Nation Books. pp. 3-44.
- Rothe, Dawn. 2006. "Iraq and Halliburton." In R. Michalowski and R. Kramer (eds.), *State-Corporate Crime: Wrongdoing at the Intersection of Business & Government*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. pp. 215-238.
- Broszmitter, Franz. 2002. "The Planet as Sacrifice Zone" in *Ecocide: A Short History of the Mass Extinction of Species*. London: Pluto Press. pp. 70-81.
- Project Underground. 2006. "The Life & Death of Ken Saro-Wiwa: A History of the Struggle for Justice in the Niger Delta." pp. 1-11 Available at: [http://justiceinnigerianow.org/jinn/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/life\\_death\\_ksw.pdf](http://justiceinnigerianow.org/jinn/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/life_death_ksw.pdf)
- Chambers, Rachel. 2005. "The Unocal Settlement: Implications for the Developing Law on Corporate Complicity in Human Rights Abuses." pp. 14-16. Available at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/13/unocal.pdf?rd=1>

**WEEK ELEVEN – MARCH 22ND****CORPORATE FRAUD, FINANCIAL REGULATION & THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS****READINGS**

- Snider, Laureen. 2011. "The Conundrum of Financial Regulation: Origins, Controversies, and Prospects." *The Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 7: 121-137.
- Rosoff, Stephen, Henry Pontell and Robert Tillman. 2004. "Corporate Fraud" In *Profit Without Honor: White Collar Crime and the Looting of America*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall. pp. 278-294.
- McNally, David. 2011. "The Great Panic of 2008" and "Financial Chaos: Money, Credit and Instability in Late Capitalism" in *Global Slump: the Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*. Halifax: Fernwood. pp. 13-24; 85-112.
- Brown, Ellen. 2010. "Wall Street's Ponzi Scheme" and Mike Whitney "Securitization: The Biggest Rip-Off Ever" in M. Chossudovsky and A.G. Marshall (eds.), *The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century*. Montreal: Global Research Publishers. pp. 367-380.

**WEEK TWELVE – MARCH 29TH****LIFTING THE CORPORATE VEIL: REGULATING CORPORATE CRIME****READINGS**

- Bakan, Joel. 2004. "Reckoning" in *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Toronto: Viking. pp. 139-167.
- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "The Stakeholder/Social Responsibility Movement Goes Private" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 206-228.
- Bittle, Steven and Laureen Snider. 2011. "'Moral Panics' Deflected: The Failed Legislative Response to Canada's Safety Crimes and Markets Fraud Legislation." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 56 (4): 373-387.
- Humphreys, David. 2009. "From Corporate Social Responsibility to the Democratic Regulation of Transnational Corporations." *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Social and Economic Sustainability* 5 (4): 207-215.

**WEEK THIRTEEN – APRIL 5TH****GLOBAL CAPITALISM & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS****READINGS**

- Glasbeek, Harry. 2002. "Outing the Captains of Industry, Finance, Retail, and Everything Else" in *Wealth by Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp. 252-283.
- McNally, David. 2011. "Conclusion" in *Global Slump: the Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*. Halifax: Fernwood. pp. 183-194.
- Hawken, Paul. 2007. "Blessed Unrest" in *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw it Coming*. pp. 11-26.
- Hedges, Chris. 2011. "A Movement Too Big to Fail." *Truthdig.com*. pp. 1-5. Available at: [http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/a\\_movement\\_too\\_big\\_to\\_fail\\_20111017/](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/a_movement_too_big_to_fail_20111017/)