

Course Outline

COURSE: CRCJ 3202 A – Crimes of the Powerful: Corporate Crime

TERM: Fall 2025

PREREQUISITES: CRCJ 1000 and third year standing

CLASS: **Day & Time:** Tuesdays 11:35 AM – 2:25 PM
 Room: LIVE via Zoom on Brightspace, with recordings posted afterwards

INSTRUCTOR: Lori Stinson
(CONTRACT)

CONTACT: **Office:** Via Zoom Thursdays (make appointments to avoid confusion)
 Office Hours: 2:30 – 4:30 PM, but flexible for other times where needed
 Email: lori.stinson@Carleton.ca

*You must use your Carleton email address in all correspondence with the instructor

LINK TO BRIGHTSPACE PAGE: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/288485>

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Vajmeh Tabibi VAJMEHTABIBI@cmail.carleton.ca
 Vladimir Gorodkov VladimirGorodkov@cmail.carleton.ca

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AFFIRMATION**ANISHNABE**

Ni manàdjiyànàniḡ Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, oḡoḡ kà nàḡadawàbandadjig iyo àkì eko weshkad. Ako nongom eḡa wìkàd kì mìḡiwewàdj.

Ni manàdjiyànàniḡ kakina Anishinàbeg ondaje kaye oḡoḡ kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàḡ Kanadàng eji ondàpinangig endàwàdjìn Odàwàng.

Ninisidawinawànàniḡ kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìḡidjig kaye kejejàdizidjig.

Nigijeweninmànàniḡ oḡoḡ kà nìḡàni sòḡḡideyedjig; weshkad, nongom; kaye àyànikàdj.

ENGLISH

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded.

We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home.

We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old.

And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present, and future.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the Crimes of the Powerful with particular attention to corporate crime, harm, violence and our response. This includes critical examinations of our attempts to regulate, criminalize, prosecute and to meaningfully address some of the most pernicious, routinized, rationalized, and invisibilized harm and violence perpetrated by corporate offenders dwarfing any measures or threats from all categories of street crime.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The general purpose of the course is to introduce students to the basic concepts, theoretical orientations, areas of research, and social, political and economic context of Corporate Crime in Canada and internationally.

By the end of the course students should be able to comfortably:

1. Demonstrate a complex understanding of corporate harm, violence, and crime in its multiple related forms
2. Discuss the main theoretical perspectives used in illuminating and researching corporate crime
3. Understand and explain the barriers to researching and responding to the crimes of the powerful, especially those of corporate offenders
4. Situate the historical, social, political, and economic impetuses, relationships, and contexts through which corporate crime emerges, is framed, and responded to
5. Outline the challenges and obstacles to responding to corporate crime

REQUIRED & SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

- * Laureen Snider (2015) *About Canada: Corporate Crime*, Fernwood Publishing (should be \$20 or less for the book)
- * Grace Blakeley (2024) *Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor Bailouts, and the Death of Freedom*. Simon & Schuster. (26.99 or less directly from the publisher, or about 17 for online ownership via publisher)

For those interested in the course topic, and those who will not be able to access the university's library in person regularly for the Snider text, **both required texts are available through the Carleton University Bookstore**, and the publishers. Both books are very affordable.

Almost all required readings, except all those from the Snider text, are available free of charge via Ares through the link on Brightspace in the 'Communications and Essentials' Module at the beginning of the course contents and via Ares in the Brightspace tools menu.

- However, the readings from the Blakeley text can only be used electronically by 3 students at the same time.
- The full Snider text is only available on physical reserve in the library, with one chapter available as a pdf copy via Ares.
- Extremely importantly: none of the vital source, kindle, or other e-book versions of the Snider text offer accurate page numbers, which are required for all citations. Should students choose to use these versions they must accurately count and number all paragraphs to produce academically acceptable citations.
- **Being able to demonstrate significant and rigorous understanding and application of required readings will be required for a passing grade.**

Supplementary materials, written and audio-visual, are available via Ares and via links on Brightspace, but do not count as equivalent where exams stipulate a minimum number of required readings.

COURSE CALENDAR

Please complete your required readings before the class for which they are listed, and assignments by the due dates indicated in the Components of Final Mark table in the Evaluations section of this outline following this course calendar.

DATE	TOPICS & film resources	REQUIRED READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS (indicated by bullets)
Module 1 September 9	Introduction to Course Essentials & Assignments	Course Outline & Statement on Academic Integrity Writing Resources Folder, Course Communication & Topic Discussion Forum

Module 1 (cont'd)	Researching & Documenting the Crimes of the Most Powerful	<p>Toombs, S. & Whyte, D. (2006) From the Streets to the Suites: Researching Corporate Crime. <i>CJM</i> 62 Winter 2005/2006, 24-25 & 45.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Outline and Requirements Quiz (Due: 11:59 PM, Sept. 23) • Academic Ethics (including plagiarism) Quiz (Due: 11:59 PM, Sept. 23)
Module 2 September 16	<p>The Corporate Criminal</p> <p>Audio Visual Resource: Bakan, J. (2003) <i>The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power</i> (165 mins)</p>	<p>Toombs, S. & Whyte (2015) Introducing the Corporate Criminal, in <i>The Corporate Criminal: Why Corporations must be abolished</i>, 1-29. Routledge.</p> <p>Blakely, G. (2024) How to Get Away with Murder, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i>, 1-17. Simon & Schuster.</p>
Module 3 September 23	The Corporation, History and Political Economy	<p>Snider, L. (2015) Criminal Corporations, in <i>About Canada: Corporate Crime</i>, 1-22. Fernwood Publishing.</p> <p>Blakely, G. (2024) The United States of Fordlandia, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor Bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i>, 19-39. Simon & Schuster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Outline & Requirements Quiz DUE 11:59 PM, September 23 • Academic Ethics & Plagiarism Quiz DUE 11:59 PM, September 23
Module 4 September 30	<p>Disaster Capitalism: 'Crisis', 'Corruption', Collusion, and Consequences?</p> <p>Film Resource: Gibney, A. (2021) <i>The Crime of the Century</i> (43 mins)</p>	<p>Blakely, G. (2024) Disaster Capitalism. in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor Bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i>, 42-71. Simon & Schuster.</p> <p>Sayer, A. (2016) Moral economy, unearned income, and legalized corruption, in D. Whyte, & J. Wiegatz (eds.), <i>Neoliberalism and the Moral Economy of Fraud</i>. London: Routledge</p>
Module 5 October 7	<p>Violence of the Industrial Financial System</p> <p>...the Disappearance of Corporate Crime?</p>	<p>Snider, L. (2015) Financial Crimes, in <i>About Canada: Corporate Crime</i>, 74-99. Fernwood Publishing.</p> <p>Blakely, G. (2024) American Made Sweatshops: How Big Business Plans, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i>, 75-108. Simon & Schuster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'INTRODUCE YOUR INFORMED CORPORATE CRIME CONCERN' DISCUSSION POST DUE
Module 6 October 14	<p>Catch-up, Wrap-up, & Overview of the Midterm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE: 11:59 PM, October 28 <p>Access to Midterm Exam Submission portals open by 11:59 PM October 17</p>	
October 21	READING WEEK – NO CLASSES	

Module 7 October 28	Law, Finance, Fraud, and Paying the Costs of Doing Business Film Resource: Gibney, McLean & Elkin (2005) <i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i> (110 mins)	Blakely, G. (2024) Buying Time: How Big Banks Plan, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i> , 109-137. Simon & Schuster. Snider, L. (2014) Interrogating the Algorithm: Debt, Derivatives and the Social Reconstruction of Stock Market Trading. <i>Critical Sociology</i> , 40(5): 747-761. • TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE 11:59 PM
Module 8 November 4	State-Corporate Crime	Blakely, G. (2024) Capital's Cronies: How States Plan, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i> , 140-172. Simon & Schuster. Lynch, M.J., Fegadel, A. & Long, M.A. (2021) Green Criminology and State-Corporate Crime: The Ecocide-Genocide Nexus with Examples from Nigeria, <i>Journal of Genocide Research</i> 23(2), 236-256.
Module 9 November 11	Corporate Ecological Crime	Snider, L. (2015) Environmental Crimes, in <i>About Canada: Corporate Crime</i> , 23-49. Fernwood Publishing. Whyte, D. (2020) Introduction: Corporate Ecocide, In <i>Ecocide: Kill the Corporation before it Kills</i> , 1-21. Manchester University Press. Supplementary Maitland, A., Lawson, M., Stroot, H., Poidatz, A., Khalfan, A. and Dabi, N. (2022) <i>Carbon Billionaires: The investment emissions of the world's richest people</i> , 1-32, Oxfam International, November 7 Briefing Note. Woodside, J. (2024) Fossil fuel companies pour on the pressure to weaken disclosure rules. <i>National Observer</i> , August 8.
Module 10 November 18	Everyday Corporate Violence: Corporate Manslaughter & other Safety Crimes	Bittle, S., Tombs, S. and Whyte, D. (2019) Corporate Killing Personified: Twisting the Corporate Hand to Fit Inside the Criminal Glove, in <i>The Class Politics of Law</i> , 114-134. Fernwood. Snider, L. (2015) Safety Crimes. in <i>About Canada: Corporate Crime</i> , 50-73. Fernwood Publishing. Supplementary Kahn, B. (2023) New climate paper calls for charging big US oil firms with homicide. <i>The Guardian</i> , March 22. Canadian Press (2015) Manslaughter charges dropped against 2 BP supervisors over 11 rig worker deaths. <i>National Observer</i> , December 2.
Module 11 November 25	Corporate Colonialism & Neo-Liberal Violence	Blakely, G. (2024) Money at Six Percent: How Empires Plan, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i> , 173-211. Simon & Schuster. Comack, E. (2018) Corporate Colonialism and the 'Crimes of the Powerful' Committed Against the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, in <i>Critical Criminology</i> 26, 455-471.

Module 12 December 2	Lifting the Veil and Tackling the Demon Film Resource: Bakan, J. (2020) <i>The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel</i> (107 minutes)	Blakely, G. (2024) "The Architect and the Bee: How to Plan Democratically" in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i> , 215-240. Simon & Schuster. Snider, L. (2015) Tackling Corporate Power, in <i>About Canada: Corporate Crime</i> , 100-125. Fernwood Publishing. Supplementary: Blakely, G. (2024) Taking Back Control: Democratic Planning at Scale, and Conclusion, in <i>Vulture Capitalism: Corporate Crimes, Backdoor bailouts, and the Death of Freedom</i> , 241-271. Simon & Schuster.
Module 13 December 2-20	Catch-up, Wrap-up, & Review for the Final Exam • TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM Due: 11:59 PM, Saturday, December 20	

EVALUATION

(Both the midterm and final exams must be completed to be considered for a passing grade)

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean. This means that grades on final exams and final grades for the course cannot be released before they are officially approved by the Dean.

COMPONENTS OF FINAL MARK

EVALUATION FORMAT	WEIGHT	DUE DATES
Academic Integrity Quiz	2.5 %	September 23
Course Requirements Quiz	2.5 %	September 23
Introduce your principal informed Concern with Corporate Crime Forum Post	5 %	October 7
Take-home Midterm	40 %	October 28
Take home Final Exam	50 %	December 20

Detailed descriptions and instructions for all assignments (including rubrics for the Discussion Post) will be included on the Brightspace course page in the Module where the assignment is due and should be submitted.

- the descriptions and instructions for the two introductory true/false quizzes, and the instructions and the rubrics for your Discussion Forum Post will be there when the course opens on Brightspace.
- Explicit and Detailed instructions for the Midterm and Final Exam Timed Quiz portions, and Midterm and Final Exam Long Answer Questions will be provided in the Module where they are due before the class in which they are discussed
- Both the Take home Midterm and the Final Exams contain separate timed quizzes and flexible long answer sections (with a choice of questions) that are completed online independently (at different times and dates within at least a two-week window).
 - The midterm exam addresses only content from readings and lectures up to the midterm (Modules 1-5), and the Final covers only content from after the midterm, and until the end of the regular semester (Modules 7-12). Your midterm will be in Module 6.
- To be considered for a passing grade long answer responses for the midterm and the final exams will require **rigorous citations from relevant modules required readings including explicit and accurate page numbers.**

GRADING

Grades will be distributed according to the following template:					
A+	90-100%	A	85-89%	A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%	B	73-76%	B-	70-72%
C+	67-69%	C	63-66%	C-	60-62%
D+	56-59%	D	53-56%	D-	50-52%
F	Below 50				

APPROACH TO GRADING

All written work will be graded for insight, analytical skill, inclusion and organization of relevant course materials, appropriate academic form, references, and **appropriate citation (including ACCURATE AND HONEST page numbers)**, clarity of expression (including logical flow, readability, grammar, correct word usage and spelling), accuracy, and relevance of content. **Poorly written work will be penalized**, so please go through the **‘Writing, Citing & Grading’ materials in the Brightspace Communications & Essentials Module** for detailed information on organizing, formatting, writing, correctly citing, and referencing your work, and for specifics criteria and examples on evaluation and grading.

Reusing your own or anyone else’s work from this or any other course is prohibited. Rather students should focus on demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the required, specified, and relevant materials from this course in all assessments. Also, in accordance with Carleton’s Academic Integrity Standards **the use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is not permitted.** Any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is a violation of Carleton’s academic integrity standards and will be treated as such.

EXTENSIONS POLICY

Late Submissions and Missed Exams are not encouraged, although exceptions are made for illness or other challenging situations. Documentation is not required for term work extensions or deferrals. Please contact your professor as quickly as possible should you require accommodation or extensions on deadlines past those pre-approved and programmed in (as the end dates) already provided on the course page. Each day of late submission beyond the pre-programmed and pre-approved extensions may result in a penalty of 5% per day cumulative.

Please remember, **instructors cannot grant extensions on final exams no matter what the circumstances.** Extensions on final exams **must go through the official deferral process** (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/>). Information and forms (including the “Academic Consideration for Coursework” form) are available online at: [Academic Consideration Policy - Registrar's Office \(carleton.ca\)](#).

EMAILS TO PROFESSORS OR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Email to Professor or TA should include the Course Code (CRCJ 3202 A) in the subject line. When required emails should receive a response within two business days, please keep those time constraints in mind when emailing for virtual appointments. **Emails should not include questions answered on the course outline or Brightspace, requests for extra credit assignments, or whether required readings are required. They are.**

Virtual Campus: For any technical difficulties, questions, or problems with any of Carleton’s virtual learning and management platforms contact the system support folks immediately responsible for the respective systems (via help links on respective pages, like your Brightspace page) or general main page help listing: <https://carleton.ca/its/help-centre/learning-in-an-online-environment/>.

PLAGIARISM (including unauthorized use of generative AI)

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE and PROHIBITION

Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions including and limited to grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor), and basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word’s formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor). However, students should recognize that AI, including its formatting and grammatical functions, is still in its early formative stages in terms of ability, accuracy, and meaningful skill. Therefore, where students choose to take advantage of these functions, they take responsibility for the frequent and routine nature of the errors these systems make (e.g., Microsoft was better at spell checking, grammar and formatting before adopting CoPilot), so students might do well to also incorporate genuine authored guides to grammar and academic writing to assist themselves in improving their writing and organization skills

Any use of generative AI tools (so tools that do anything other than grammar, spell-checking, and basic formatting) to produce assessed content are considered a violation of academic integrity standards and will be approached as such. Instructors are obligated to document such violations and pass this documentation and the offending students’ work on to their Dean who will then contact the offending student or students. Professors are not allowed to discuss this with students but must instead pass on the work to the Dean’s office to levy the appropriate academic penalty.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy-protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a link to information about all the resources, both on campus and off, that you may find helpful: <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes can be found here: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline>