

## JUSTICE A490:601 - Business and Crime Fall 2009

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**Meeting Time and Place:** MW 4:00-5:15 pm, ADM 142

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Sharon Chamard LIB 213 (Justice Center) 786-1813 <a href="mailto:afsec@uaa.alaska.edu">afsec@uaa.alaska.edu</a>	<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday and Wednesday, 12:00 – 2:00 pm Other times by appointment
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### **Course Description:**

Examination of a variety of crimes committed against business, such as shoplifting, employee theft, fraud, and violence in the workplace. Issues discussed include incidence and prevalence, costs to business and society, theoretical explanations, and prevention measures. Other topics include technology and crime, land use and crime, and methods of measuring business victimization.

### **Course Goals:**

By the end of this course, you should have a good understanding of the nature and extent of crime against business, the types of crimes that most commonly are committed against businesses, and risk factors associated with business victimization. As well, you will be familiar with crime prevention methods used to reduce business victimization, and will be able to develop crime prevention strategies for particular businesses.

### **Course Requirements:**

- Attendance is strongly encouraged. If you are repeatedly absent, it will be difficult to do well in the course.
- Do the assigned reading beforehand.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Complete all assignments by the due date.

### **Course Grading:**

Evaluation in this course is based on the following:

#### Class project on budget motels in Spenard – 40%

This project involves working with the Spenard Community Council on a small study of budget motels in that part of Anchorage. Elements of the project involve interviewing motel managers and employees, physical observations of the motel properties, analysis of police data on calls-for-service to the motel properties, compilation of these materials into a final report, and presentation of findings to members of the Spenard community and the Anchorage Police Department's Community Action Policing (CAP) Team.

Obviously, every student will not be involved in every aspect of the project. Part of the challenge will be to organize the project by dividing it up into different tasks, assigning people to complete those tasks by a particular time, and combining the work into a comprehensive final product. Considerable class time will be spent on these organizing and performance monitoring activities.

Assessment of students will be based on peer evaluation, adherence to deadlines, quality of work produced, collegiality, and involvement in the planning and organization of the project.

Attendance and participation in classroom discussions – 20%

This is a small class and will be conducted like a seminar. There will be some lecturing by the professor, but mostly we will discuss the readings. You will be expected to come to class willing and able to talk about the topic of the day.

Critical analysis – 20%

For the readings associated with each class session, you will be provided with study guide questions, either by the professor or by one of your colleagues (see below). Your responses should be prepared ahead of time and type-written. These will be collected by the professor on the day of the relevant readings and assessed.

Seminar leadership and study guide questions - 20%

Each student will be responsible for facilitating one class session. Generally this means that you will be very familiar with the readings for that day, have prepared a set of discussion questions for your colleagues, and generate discussion on the key issues in the readings. You are also free to bring in additional material. This is not a “presentation,” because if you do it well, your fellow students will end up speaking more than you do.

At least one week prior to your assigned class day, you will provide your fellow students with study guide questions for the readings that will be covered on your assigned day. Part of your score on this component will come from peer evaluations.

If you miss your scheduled seminar, attempts will be made to reschedule (but on a different topic), but that may not be possible. It is safest to assume you will get a zero on the seminar if you miss class on the day of your seminar.

**Course Grading:**

Final grades are determined from the following scale:

- A – 90%-100%
- B – 80% - 89.9%
- C – 70% - 79.9%
- D – 60% - 69.9%
- F – under 60%

**Readings:**

Readings for each unit will either be available on Blackboard or through short-term loan at the Justice Center (LIB 213), or will be handed out in class. Additional readings will be added to most units, but in any case, the readings will be finalized by 5 pm on Thursday of the week prior to the week in which the material will be discussed. This means any extra readings will be either posted to Blackboard or placed on loan at the Justice Center by the end of the day on Thursday, or handed out in class on Wednesday.

**Websites:**

Centre for Retail Research - <http://www.retailresearch.org/home/index.php>

Center for Problem-Oriented Policing – <http://www.popcenter.org>

Crime Prevention Service – Rutgers University-Newark – <http://crimeprevention.rutgers.edu>

British Home Office – an extensive collection of crime prevention monographs - <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsintro1.html>

Australian Institute of Criminology – another good collection of crime prevention monographs - <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/>

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic integrity is a basic principle, which requires that students take credit only for ideas and efforts that are their own. Some examples of academic dishonesty include cheating on tests (by looking at another student’s paper or using unauthorized material), or failing to properly cite sources you have referred to or used to prepare your oral or written assignments. Please refer to the section on “Student Code of Conduct” in the UAA Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter. I have no compassion for cheaters and will not hesitate to take appropriate action if academic dishonesty is detected.

**Campus Safety:**

We care about your safety on campus. While relatively safe, our campus is NOT a sanctuary from crime, and accidents occur no matter how hard we try to prevent them. You are encouraged to be responsible for your own safety, and to bring safety concerns to the attention of UAA faculty or staff, or to contact Campus Police at 786-1120 when you observe an unsafe environment. For your own safety, please also take the time to locate the nearest exit and emergency telephone when you are in campus buildings. For emergencies, call the University Police at 786-4911 (on campus 6-4911) or municipal emergency services at 911.

**Schedule (subject to change based on progress of class or other factors):**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>
1	08/24 08/26	Welcome and introduction to course Incidence of crime against business	
2	08/31 09/02	Measuring crime against business	
3	09/07 09/09	<i>NO CLASS – Labor Day</i>	
4	09/14 09/16	How do you get businesses to care about crime prevention?	
5	09/21 09/23	General crime prevention strategies – employee-based, community-based, broader measures	
6	09/28 09/30	Employee theft	
7	10/05 10/07	Retail crime	
8	10/12 10/14	Workplace violence	
9	10/19 10/21	Transportation crime Natural resource and farm crime	
10	10/26 10/28	Stolen goods markets	
11	11/02 11/04	Land use and crime <i>NO CLASS</i>	
12	11/09 11/11	Technology and crime	
13	11/16 11/18	Business and broader crime prevention measures	
14	11/23 11/25	<i>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
15	11/30 12/02	Presentation rehearsal Formal presentation	