

# LATER LIFE LEARNING

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## **SERIES C: White Collar Crime – An Investigator’s Perspective**

**Fridays, 1:00 – 2:45 pm, January 12 – March 23, 2018**  
**No class February 23, 2018 for Reading Week**

**Innis College, Town Hall**

**Lecturer:** *James (Jim) Hunter is a forensic accountant. He was formerly Head of KPMG’s forensic practice in Canada. He has led some of the largest fraud investigations in Canada, as well as investigations in the United States, Europe and Asia. Jim is currently a Course Director (part-time) in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University where he teaches a post-graduate course on understanding and managing risk fraud.*

**Overview:** This series takes a look at white collar crime in Canada and overseas. We discuss the “what, why and how” of fraud. What is it that impels otherwise upstanding citizens to become fraudsters? How do they fare in jail? The rationale of commissioning a forensic investigation into alleged wrongdoing will be examined. This series will also address money-laundering, terrorist financing and global corruption.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

#### **1. January 12: The Fraud Triangle**

We cover some basic definitions and look at the way in which society has moved the concept of fraud from a moral failing to a criminal offence. You will gain an understanding of the fraudster’s motivation. When deficiencies of character, opportunity and need come together, a perfect fraud storm can arise.

#### **2. January 19: Ten Reasons to Feel Uneasy**

White collar crime does not occur in a vacuum: you can see it coming. In this lecture, we look at ten indicators which might make the informed observer feel a bit queasy. We examine some statistics on corporate fraudsters and take a look at fraud detection and prevention techniques.

#### **3. January 26: The Ethical Tool Kit**

As a result of corporate melt-downs arising from fraud-driven conspiracies in the United States in the early part of this century, U.S. and Canadian corporations have attempted to improve the corporate ethical climate. Current practices will be discussed including the role of the whistleblower. We’ll address what happens to white collar criminals who are incarcerated, including advice from “jail consultants” as to how to survive. We’ll also examine corporate versus individual responsibility for wrongdoing.

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## **4. February 2: Fraud Smorgasbord**

The white-collar criminal has a host of opportunities. Here we look at some: expense accounts, secret commissions, divorce fraud, conspiracies, counterfeit cheques, Nigerian letters, Ponzi schemes and earnings management. How does management react when it discovers fraud? We'll also look at that.

## **5. February 9: Vulnerable Sectors**

Why are sectors as diverse as banks and Ontario's health care system favourite targets for fraudsters? How do different sectors deal with fraud? When things go wrong, where were the auditors? This lecture will attempt to answer these questions.

## **6. February 16: Enter the Forensic Accountant**

In this lecture, all (well, nearly all) will be revealed about forensic accounting. The unexpected impact of Prince Jefri Bolkiah, brother of the Sultan of Brunei, on the practice of forensic accounting will be examined. We'll discuss witch-hunts and Chinese walls.

## **\*NO CLASS February 23 – Reading Week**

## **7. March 2: Nuts and Bolts of an Investigation**

The topics covered are: confidentiality, the typical suspect, evidence, interview techniques, forensic reports, George Orwell's rules and remedial actions.

## **8. March 9: Law Enforcement, Regulators and Others**

Different entities carry out investigations. We'll compare the roles of police, lawyers, journalists, accountants and regulators. Testifying in Court and 'hot-tubbing' will be addressed. Investigations can be advanced by the use of court orders, but sometimes, there are hitches. We'll take a look.

## **9. March 16: Fraud and Bankruptcy**

Wags like to say that fraud and bankruptcy (as with love and marriage) go together like a horse and carriage. We'll examine the truth of that suggestion in the context of Enron, a large U.S. bankruptcy that changed the world of accounting for ever. This will involve a discussion of the SOX rules.

## **10. March 23: Global Corruption**

Money-laundering, terrorist financing, global corruption, and tax evasion form the rather gloomy backdrop to this last lecture. However, we shall end on a more cheery note with a brief look at the work of Transparency International.