

## PLS 4350-B90 Political Corruption

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**Dates:** June 24, 2019 – August 1, 2019

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*“In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”*

- James Madison, *Federalist* #51

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, we will examine the wide-ranging causes and consequences of political corruption. Political corruption, broadly defined as the misuse of public office for private gain, is a fundamental challenge of public administration. Corruption is an economic, political, and human rights problem. Corruption can undermine economic growth and lead to political instability. Furthermore, corruption is unavoidable in an increasingly globalized world. We will learn about the different types of corruption, the historical origins of corruption, and the consequences of corruption. We will discuss how political theorists, policymakers, and scholars have tried to understand and prevent corruption. Finally, we will look at corruption at the highest levels in the U.S. Presidency focusing on the investigations of the Nixon, Clinton, and Trump Administrations.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define corruption
- Compare and contrast the level of corruption among countries
- Identify and explain the causes of corruption
- Assess the costs and consequences of corruption
- Evaluate policies aimed at reducing corruption

**COURSE DESIGN:** It is likely that many of you selected an online course because you need the flexibility of an online course for your schedule. This course is designed to give you maximum flexibility. However, it is also important that we move through the material synchronously. I expect this course to be comparable to an on-campus course, therefore you will have assignments spread out over the entire six-week period.

The course will be laid out with 6 units, 1 unit per week. The course material for the week will be posted on Monday morning and will be due on the following Wednesday before midnight, so you will have nine days to complete the assignments in each particular unit.

This also means that two units will overlap for a few days. So, you should consider your own schedule and plan accordingly. **You can neither knock out the entire course during the first week of the term nor can you blow off this course for five weeks and try to complete everything at the end.** You should reserve time in your schedule to work on this course on a weekly basis.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** You will have three types of assignments (Discussion Forums, Reading Quizzes, and Application Assignments) to complete for each unit and one final paper that gives you an opportunity to synthesize the course material. The assignments for each category are weighted equally.

Every student will complete the following assignments. The assignments are given most weeks and weighted evenly:

- **Discussion Forums (25%)** – Each week you will be asked to participate in a discussion forum about the week’s topic. Directions will be provided in the prompt. In order to get the most out of discussion, forum assignments are due earlier than the reading quizzes and application assignments.
- **Reading Quizzes (20%)** – A corresponding quiz (multiple choice and matching) will accompany the readings each week. Quizzes are open-notes and not time-limited, but you only get one attempt.
- **Application Assignments (30%)** – The application assignments involve short answer and essay questions related to the readings and lectures.

The final assessment is different for undergraduate and graduate students.

- **Movie or Documentary Review (25%)** [Undergraduate only] – You will have the opportunity to watch and respond to a movie or documentary that focuses on corruption. I will give you a list of permitted videos, but you are also welcome to ask for approval to review another film or document. A full description of the assignment is on Pilot.
- **Final Paper (25%)** [Graduates only – undergraduates can ask for permission to complete this assignment instead of the movie/documentary review] – Graduate students will be expected to write a final paper that includes a literature review and theory section connecting political corruption to their research topic of interest.

**READINGS:** The readings for the course are listed each week. You should be able to click on the embedded links to either go to the library webpage (where you can download a PDF of the reading) or to the external website. Book chapters will be posted in the Readings folder on Pilot. Newspaper articles will be linked. I have also included PDFs on Pilot for articles that come from gated sources.

**LECTURES:** Lectures will be recorded and posted with the corresponding unit. They serve to both synthesize and reinforce the readings and to introduce some new concepts that are not directly covered in the reading. Students are expected to watch each video lecture before completing the application assignments. Closed-captioning is provided for each lecture.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Please consult the Code of Student Conduct for questions about academic integrity.

**DISABILITY:** Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated. It is your responsibility to notify me during the first week of the semester if such accommodations are needed. If you have questions about this, contact the Office of Disability Services at 937-775-5680 or [disability\\_services@wright.edu](mailto:disability_services@wright.edu).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** The following pages include information about each unit. There are five units in this course. Each unit will become available on Mondays at 6:00 AM. These units will be organized in modules on Pilot which will include the readings for the week, a discussion forum, a reading quiz, and an application assignment. When applicable, due dates are set up on Pilot. However, it is your responsibility to know the due dates for each week and to submit the work on time. **Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day.** I have made every effort to make the expectations for each unit clear. The first post on a discussion forum is always due by Friday, the response post is due by the following Tuesday. The reading quiz and application assignments are due on Wednesdays, nine days after the unit was posted. Please contact me if you still have question.

## Unit 1 – Concepts, Perceptions, and Definitions

Materials for Unit 1 will be available on **Monday, June 24**

### Readings:

#### Required

- Woo, Jongseok and Eunjung Choi. (2018). "Political Corruption in Contemporary Politics." Ch. 1 (pp. 1-20) in *Political Corruption and Democratic Governance*. New York: Lexington Books. [PDF on Pilot]
- Svensson, Jakob. (2005). "Eight Questions about Corruption", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 19(3): 19-42. [\[LINK\]](#)
- Zagorsky, Jay L. (2016 April 4). "From Panama papers to Brazilian bribes: why corruption is so costly." *The Conversation*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- Braun, Dietmar and David H. Guston. (2003). "Principal-agent theory and research policy: An introduction." *Science and Public Policy*, 30(5): 302-308. [\[LINK\]](#) Focus on pages 303-304.
- Rose-Ackerman, Susan and Bonnie J. Palifka. (2016). "Bureaucratic Corruption." Ch. 2 in *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., pp.51-92). New York: Cambridge University Press. [PDF on Pilot]

#### Recommended

- Gardiner, John. 1993. "Defining Corruption." Ch. 3 (pp. 21-38) in Maurice Punch, Emile Kolthoff, Kees van der Vijver and Bram van Vlied, eds., *Coping with Corruption in a Borderless World: Proceedings of the Fifth International Anti-Corruption Conference*. Deventer and Boston: Kluwer Law and Taxation Publishers, 1993. [PDF on Pilot]
- Miller, Gary J. (2005). "The Political Evolution of Principal-Agent Models." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 8:203-225. [\[LINK\]](#)
- Henning, Peter J. (2018 February 16). "It's getting harder to prosecute politicians for corruption." *The Conversation* [\[LINK\]](#)

### Assignments:

1. Discussion Forum – Post 1 due by Friday, June 27, Response due by Tuesday, July 2
2. Reading Quiz – Answer questions on the weekly readings (Due Wednesday, July 3)
3. Application Activity – Complete short essays based on the readings and lectures (Due Wednesday, July 3)

\* **Video lectures will be posted on Pilot each week.**

\* **All assignments must be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

## Unit 2 – Measuring Corruption and Explaining Corruption

Materials for Unit 2 will be available on **Monday, July 1**

### Readings:

#### Required

- Friedrich, Carl J. 2002. "Corruption. Concepts in Historical Perspective." Ch. 1 in A.J. Heidenheimer & M. Johnston (Eds.), *Political Corruption: Concepts and Contexts* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., pp. 15-23). New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers. [PDF on Pilot]
- Rotberg, Robert I. (2017). "The Nature of Corruption." Ch. 1 in *The Corruption Cure* (pp. 16-49). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. [PDF on Pilot]
- Rotberg, Robert I. (2017). "Measuring and Assessing Corrupt Behavior." Ch. 2 in *The Corruption Cure* (pp. 50-77). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. [PDF on Pilot]
- Graycar, Adam. "Corruption: Classification and analysis." *Policy and Society* 34.2 (2015): 87-96. [\[LINK\]](#)
- Danforth, Nick. (2015 February 13). "The Middle East That Might Have Been." *The Atlantic*. [\[LINK\]](#)
- Rose-Ackerman, Susan and Bonnie J. Palifka. (2016). "Corruption in Postconflict State Building." Ch. 10 in *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., pp. 316-340). New York: Cambridge University Press. [PDF on Pilot]
- Rotberg, Robert I. (2017). "Nordic, Antipodean, and Other Exceptionalism: How Did Anticorruption Take Root?" Ch. 7 in *The Corruption Cure* (pp. 176-196). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. [PDF on Pilot]

#### Recommended

- Dincer, Oguzhan and Michael Johnston. (2015). "Measuring Illegal and Legal Corruption in American States: Some Results from the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Corruption in America Survey." Edmond J. Safra Working Papers, No. 58. [\[LINK\]](#)
- Hough, Dan. (2017 January 26). "There's more to measuring corruption than Transparency International's annual index, just released." *The Washington Post*. [PDF on Pilot]

### Assignments:

1. Discussion Forum – Post 1 due by Friday, July 5, Response due by Tuesday, July 9
2. Reading Quiz – Answer questions on the weekly readings (Due Wednesday, July 10)
3. Application Activity – Complete short essays based on the readings and lectures (Due Wednesday, July 10)

**\* Video lectures will be posted on Pilot each week.**

**\* All assignments must be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

## Unit 3 – Patterns of Corruption in the Developed and Developing World

Materials for Unit 3 will be available on **Monday, July 8**

\* **There will be an on-campus opportunity to view *Dark Money* on Wednesday, July 10 at 3:00 PM (Location TBD). We will have a discussion after. Attendance is optional.**

### Readings:

#### Required

- Rotberg, Robert I. (2009). "Governance and Leadership in Africa: Measures, Methods, and Results." *Journal of International Affairs* 62(2): 113-126. [[LINK](#)]
- Filkins, Dexter. (2009 January 2). "Afghan corruption: Everything for sale." *The New York Times*. [[LINK](#)]
- Luehrmann, Laura. (2012). "Corruption in China: Red Capitalists on Parade." in Charles Funderburk (Ed.), *Political Corruption in a Comparative Perspective: Sources, Status and Prospects* (pp. 95-116), Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press. [PDF on Pilot]
- Kantha, Pramod. (2012). "Corruption and Governance in South Asia." in Charles Funderburk (Ed.), *Political Corruption in a Comparative Perspective: Sources, Status and Prospects* (pp. 117-140), Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press. [PDF on Pilot]
- McFaul, Michael. (2018 October). "Is Putinism the Russian norm or an aberration?" *Current History* 117: 251-257. [PDF on Pilot]
- O'Neil, Shannon. (2018 August 16). "Latin America Needs Better Judges." *Bloomberg*. [[LINK](#)]
- Foer, Franklin. (2019 March). "Russian-Style Kleptocracy is Infiltrating America." *The Atlantic*. [[LINK](#)]

#### Recommended

Baldwin, Kate. (2013). "Why vote with the chief? Political connections and public goods provision in Zambia." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 794-809. [[LINK](#)]

### Assignments:

1. Discussion Forum – Post 1 due by Friday, July 12, Response due by Tuesday, July 16
2. Reading Quiz – Answer questions on the weekly readings (Due Wednesday, July 17)
3. Application Activity – Complete short essays based on the readings and lectures (Due Wednesday, July 17)

\* **Video lectures will be posted on Pilot each week.**

\* **All assignments must be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

## Unit 4 – Globalization and the Consequences of Corruption

Materials for Unit 4 will be available on **Monday, July 15**

**\* There will be an on-campus opportunity to view *The Panama Papers* on Tuesday, July 16 at 3:00 PM (Location TBD). We will have a discussion after. Attendance is optional.**

### Readings:

#### Required

- Story, Louise and Stephanie Saul. (2015 February 7). "Towers of Secrecy: Stream of Foreign Wealth Flows to Elite New York Real Estate." *The New York Times*. [[LINK](#)]

- Teets, Jessica C. and Erica Chenoweth. (2009). "To Bribe or to Bomb: Do Corruption and Terrorism Go Together?" Ch. 7 in Robert I. Rotberg, (Ed.), *Corruption, Global Security, and World Order* (pp. 167-193)., Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press. [PDF on Pilot]

- Greenhill, Kelly. (2009). "Kleptocratic Interdependence" in Robert I. Rotberg, (Ed.), *Corruption, Global Security, and World Order* (pp. 96-123), Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press. [PDF on Pilot]

- Heineman, Jr. Ben W. (2009). "The Role of the Multi-National Corporation in the Long War against Corruption." Ch. 14 in Robert I. Rotberg, (Ed.), *Corruption, Global Security, and World Order* (pp. 359-389), Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press. [PDF on Pilot]

#### Recommended

- Zucman, Gabriel. "Taxing across borders: Tracking personal wealth and corporate profits." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28.4 (2014): 121-48.

### Assignments:

1. Discussion Forum – Post 1 due by Friday, July 19, Response due by Tuesday, July 23
2. Reading Quiz – Answer questions on the weekly readings (Due Wednesday, July 24)
3. Application Activity – Complete short essays based on the readings and lectures (Due Wednesday, July 24)

**\* Video lectures will be posted on Pilot each week.**

**\* All assignments must be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.**

## Unit 5 – Anticorruption Efforts and Corruption at the Highest Levels

Materials for Unit 5 will be available on **Monday, July 22**

**\* There will be an on-campus opportunity to view *All the President's Men* on Tuesday, July 23 at 10:00 AM (Location TBD). We will have a discussion after. Attendance is optional.**

### Readings:

#### Required

Capps, Kriston. (2018 May 30). "The Hidden Costs of Losing Your City's Newspaper." *Citylab*. [\[LINK\]](#).

- Kennedy, Dan. (2018 June 6). "A New Study Measures the Cost of Corruption When the Local Newspaper Dies." *WGBH News*. [\[LINK\]](#)

- Rotberg, Robert I. (2017). "The Most Improved: Results." Ch. 6 in *The Corruption Cure* (pp. 176-196). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. [PDF on Pilot]

- Rose-Ackerman, Susan and Bonnie J. Palifka. (2016). "The Role of the International Community." Ch. 14 in *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., pp. 446-490). New York: Cambridge University Press. [PDF on Pilot]

- Basinger, S. J., & Rottinghaus, B. (2012). "Skeletons in White House Closets: A Discussion of Modern Presidential Scandals." *Political Science Quarterly*, 127(2), 213-239. [\[LINK\]](#)

#### Recommended

- Gao, Pengjie, Chang Lee, and Dermot Murphy. (2019). "Financing Dies in the Darkness? The Impact of Newspaper closures on Public Finance." *Journal of Financial Economics*. [PDF on Pilot]

### Assignments:

1. Discussion Forum – Post 1 due by Friday, July 26, Response due by Tuesday, July 30
2. Reading Quiz – Answer questions on the weekly readings (Due Wednesday, July 30)
3. Application Activity – Complete short essays based on the readings and lectures (Due Wednesday, July 30)
4. Turn in final paper (Due Friday, August 1)

**\* Video lectures will be posted on Pilot each week.**

**\* All assignments must be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date.**