POL 286: Corruption Independent Study
Spring 2023 (Syllabus Version: 1/20/2023)
319 Kirby Hall, R 3:30p-5:00p

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Schedule an Office Hours Appointment: https://calendly.com/esareyje/office-hours

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course seeks to help students ask and answer important questions about corruption, traditionally defined as the appropriation of public resources for private gain.

Students will be able to:

1. define corruption, understanding the tradeoffs implicit in different conceptualizations and measures;
2. consider why corruption is endemic in some countries while in others it is not by understanding, comparing, and critiquing theories proposed in the literature and the evidence offered to support these theories;
3. consider why some people choose to participate in corruption while others do not by understanding and critiquing evidence offered to support these various explanations;
4. consider the possible effects of corruption on political and economic outcomes in a country by understanding and critiquing evidence offered to support the existence of these possible effects; and
5. make written arguments in response to descriptive and analytical questions using information drawn from the class's readings.

GRADING POLICIES AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Grade Components:

- Class Meeting Discussions: 30%
- Final Project: 70%

Grading Scale:

100%-93%: A	82.9%-80%: B-	69.9%-67%: D+
92.9%-90%: A-	79.9%-77%: C+	66.9%-63%: D
89.9%-87%: B+	76.9%-73%: C	62.9%-60%: D-
86.9%-83%: B	72.9%-70%: C-	>59.5%: F

Class Discussion: Students will come prepared to discuss assigned readings each week and will be graded according to whether they are prepared and active in discussion.

Final Project: Students must submit an original written empirical research project at the conclusion of the course. This project must be roughly the equivalent (in terms of length and topical coverage) of an academic journal article, with roughly 20-25 pages of material per author (co-authored projects are possible with instructor approval). The parameters of the project must be agreed on between instructor and student(s) on or before March 2.

Honor Code/Academic Misconduct: All forms of academic misconduct will be handled according to the Wake Forest University Honor Code. Details on the Honor Code are available at https://studentconduct.wfu.edu/honor-system-wfu/.

If you ever have any questions about what you should do to stay within the honor code on a particular assignment, **contact me with your question and I can assist you**. I cannot guarantee a timely response unless you contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the time the assignment is due.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability and require accommodation in this class, please contact me as soon as possible (within the first two weeks of class) to discuss these accommodations. You will also need to contact the Disability Services Office (telephone extension: 5929) in 118 Reynolda Hall. More information is available at https://lac.wfu.edu/disability-services/.

Syllabus Change Policy: All policies of this syllabus may be changed by Prof. Esarey with advance notice.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks:

- Ray Fisman and Miriam A. Golden. 2017. *Corruption: What Everyone Needs to Know.* Oxford University Press.

Note: All students must have a valid Wake Forest e-mail address and login (and access to the Canvas website) to participate in this course.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Date	Topic	Readings
1/12	Introduction	N/A
1/19	Basic concepts and frameworks in corruption	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-21) Corbacho et al. (2016). "Corruption as a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Costa Rica." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(4): 1077-1092. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12244 **Recommended**: Miller, "Reading a Regression Table: A Guide for Students." URL: http://svmiller.com/blog/2014/08/reading-a-regression-table-a-guide-for-students/
1/26	Defining and classifying corruption	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 2 (pp. 23-54) Warren (2004). "What Does Corruption Mean in a Democracy?" *American Journal of Political Science* 48(2): 328-343. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0092-5853.2004.00073.x
2/2	**Travel: No Class**	
2/9	Measuring corruption	Donchev and Ujhelyi (2014). "What do Corruption Indices Measure?" *Economics and Politics* 26(2): 309-331. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/ecpo.12037 Charron, Nicholas (2015). "Do corruption measures have a perception problem?" *European Political Science Review* 8(1): 147-171. URL: https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773914000447
2/16	Where is corruption most prevalent?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-82) Dong and Torgler (2013). "Causes of corruption: Evidence from China." *China Economic Review* 26: 152-169. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2012.09.005

2/23	Inequality and corruption	Jong-sun and Khagram (2005). "A Comparative Study of Inequality and Corruption." *American Sociological Review* 70(1): 136-157. URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/000312240507000107 Policardo and Sanches Carrera (2018). "Corruption causes inequality, or is it the other way around?" *Economic Analysis and Policy* 59: 92-102. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eap.2018.05.001
3/2	What are the consequences of corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 4 (pp. 83-119) Tavits (2008). "Representation, Corruption, and Subjective Well-Being." *Comparative Political Studies* 41(12): 1607-1630. URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414007308537 Grundler and Potrafke (2019). "Corruption and economic growth: New empirical evidence." *European Journal of Political Economy* 60: 101810. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2019.08.001
3/9	**Spring Break: No Class**	
3/16	Who is involved in corruption, and why?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 5 (pp. 121-150) Dollar, Fisman, and Gatti (2001). "Are women really the 'fairer' sex? Corruption and women in government." *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 46(4): 423-429. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/S0167-2681(01)00169-X
3/23	What are the cultural and moral bases of corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 6 (pp. 151-172) Pruckner and Sausgruber (2013). "Honesty on the Streets: A Field Study on Newspaper Purchasing." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 11(3): 661-679. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/jeea.12016

3/30	How do political institutions affect corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 7 (pp. 173-201) Kuo, Didi (2018). *Clientelism, Capitalism, and Democracy.* 163 pp. URL: https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108679923
4/6	Accountability and corruption	Tavits and Schwindt-Bayer (2016). "A clarity of responsibility theory of corruption." Chapter 2 in *Corruption, Accountability, and Clarity of Responsibility* (pp. 17-32) [Available on Canvas] Tavits and Schwindt-Bayer (2016). "Clarity of responsibility and aggregate corruption perceptions." Chapter 4 in *Corruption, Accountability, and Clarity of Responsibility* (pp. 47-67) [Available on Canvas]
4/13	**MPSA Conference: No Class**	
4/20	How do countries shift from high to low corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 8 (pp. 203-231) Chen and Kung (2019). "Busting the 'Princelings': The Campaign Against Corruption in China's Primary Land Market." *Quarterly Journal of Economics:* 185-226. URL: https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjy027 Incerti, Trevor (2020). "Corruption Information and Vote Share: A Meta-Analysis and Lessons for Experimental Design." *American Political Science Review* 114(3): 761-774. URL: https://doi.org/10.1017/S000305542000012X
	Final Project due 5/5	