

POL 243: Corruption
Fall 2023 (Syllabus Version: 9/11/2023)
Kirby Hall B03, M W 2:00p-3:15p

Dr. Justin Esarey
Associate Professor of Politics
E-mail: esareyje@wfu.edu

Office: 319 Kirby Hall
Phone: 678-383-9629
Fax: 336-758-6104

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:

- Discussion Responses: 20%
- Small Group Discussion: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 35%
- Final Exam: 35%

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

Small Group Discussion: Everyone in class will be randomly assigned to a small group. Each group must meet and discuss the discussion questions. Grading for this assignment is 100% or 0% based on attendance and active participation in the discussion. The grade will be assessed by your peers; after each meeting, your group will indicate on Canvas who meaningfully participated in the discussion and those who did so will receive full credit. Ten missed attendances for the Small Group Discussion will be dropped; the rest will be averaged to form this portion of the grade.

Discussion Responses: Discussion questions will be distributed in advance of each day's readings. At the beginning of class, a question will be randomly selected. All students will have ten minutes to write a response by hand. You are permitted to use your notes to assist you with these response questions, and I recommend that you use the small group discussion to workshop your ideas for this response. However, *each student must write their own response; a group cannot all submit identical responses.* Ten missed discussion responses will be dropped; the rest will be averaged to form this portion of the grade.

Attendance: Regular attendance is typically a prerequisite for success in the class, although no points are deducted on the basis of an absence alone. Anything taught in class is testable material, and not everything I teach in class will be in the course reading material.

Exams: There will be two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. All exams are cumulative but will focus on material learned since the last exam. Exams will be take home, and you will be bound by the honor system when taking the exam. **Class readings and notes may be consulted during the exam, but you may not discuss the exam with anyone other than Dr. Esarey while the exam is ongoing.**

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. **Discussion responses and small group participation credits MAY NOT BE TAKEN LATE OR RESCHEDULED, including due to short-term illness or one-off academic or scholarly activities. Ten missed responses/group meetings, corresponding to over 35% of class meetings, are already dropped from the grade to account for these circumstances.** Exceptions to this policy will only be made in unusual circumstances on a case-by-case basis. If you develop a severe illness that you believe will interfere with your ability to complete more than a few discussion responses or small group discussions, please contact Dr. Esarey immediately.
2. **Discussion responses WILL NOT BE GRADED unless the student attends the full class period. If a student comes to class to complete the discussion response and then leaves, the response will not be graded.**
3. **Students are responsible for submitting working, uncorrupted files for all assignments.** If a file is corrupted and needs to be re-sent, and re-sending happens after the assignment deadline, a late penalty will be assessed.
4. **Assignments are due at the date and time I specify for the assignment.** Late exams will be marked off at 5 percentage points for the first hour late, and an additional 10 percentage points for every subsequent hour late.
5. **Failing to take the exam during the scheduled time window will result in no credit for the exam.** Exams may be re-scheduled only under the following three circumstances:
 - a. a death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) within two weeks before the exam due date;
 - b. an unforeseeable and significant illness or medical emergency affecting you, your spouse, or your child; or
 - c. participation in a Wake Forest-sponsored academic or sporting event.

In the event of (a) or (c), you must give me **at least 24 hours advance notice and preferably more** (via e-mail or a phone call) that you will miss the exam, or it may not be made up. I may require supporting documentation. All penalty waivers are at the discretion of the instructor. Under these circumstances, I will extend your due date and/or schedule you a make-up exam time. **Conflicts with a work schedule, job interview, non-academic trip, or vacation are not a valid reason to miss an exam or any other assignment** and cannot be the basis for a penalty waiver.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

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.

Statement on use of Artificial Intelligence Resources: Students must treat receiving assistance from artificially intelligent computer programs (such as ChatGPT or WolframAlpha) in the same way that they would treat receiving assistance from a human being. Any assistance that would be treated as a violation of the Honor Code if performed by a person will be treated as a violation of the Honor Code if it is performed by a computer program. Some illustrative examples:

1. Uploading the course's daily discussion questions to ChatGPT and asking it to draft answers for you *is a violation* of the honor code (plagiarism).
2. Writing your own answer to a discussion question and uploading this to ChatGPT to ask for improvements in grammar or clarity *is not a violation* of the honor code as long as the written work remains substantially your own.
3. Using ChatGPT, WolframAlpha, or any other artificially intelligent system for any kind of assistance on an exam *is a violation* of the honor code (a form of cheating: it violates the rules against getting help from anyone except Dr. Esarey).
4. Uploading a section of a reading assignment to ChatGPT and asking it to explain the concept to you in different words *is not a violation* of the honor code, as long as you do not use its description verbatim in a submission of written work.

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
8/28	Introduction	N/A
8/30	Basic concepts and frameworks in corruption	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-21)
9/4	The self-reinforcing nature of corruption	Corbacho et al. (2016). "Corruption as a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Costa Rica." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 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/
9/6	Class Cancelled (illness)	
9/11	Defining and classifying corruption	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 2 (pp. 23-54)
9/13	Another definition of corruption	Warren (2004). "What Does Corruption Mean in a Democracy?" <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 48(2): 328-343. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0092-5853.2004.00073.x
9/18	Measuring corruption	Heywood and Rose (2014). "'Close but no Cigar': The measurement of corruption." <i>Journal of Public Policy</i> 34(3): 507-529. URL: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0143814X14000099
9/20	Where is corruption most prevalent?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-82)
9/25	Sociological and institutional causes of corruption in China (PRC)	Dong and Torgler (2013). "Causes of corruption: Evidence from China." <i>China Economic Review</i> 26: 152-169. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2012.09.005
9/27	Inequality and corruption	Jong-sun and Khagram (2005). "A Comparative Study of Inequality and Corruption." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 70(1): 136-157. URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/000312240507000107

10/2	What are the consequences of corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 4 (pp. 83-119)
10/4	Corruption and economic development	Gründler and Potrafke (2019). "Corruption and economic growth: New empirical evidence." <i>European Journal of Political Economy</i> 60 (December). URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2019.08.001
10/5	Midterm Exam Distributed (take home)	
10/9	Corruption and happiness	Tavits (2008). "Representation, Corruption, and Subjective Well-Being." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 41(12): 1607-1630. URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414007308537
10/11	Class Cancelled	
10/11	Midterm Exam Due	
10/16	Resource extraction and corruption	Knutsen et al. (2016). "Mining and Local Corruption in Africa." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 61(2): 320-334. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12268
10/18	Corruption and rule of law	Lindberg, Lo Bue, and Sen (2022). "Clientelism, corruption and the rule of law." <i>World Development</i> 158 (October). URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105989
10/23	Corruption and the environment	Cole (2007). "Corruption, income, and the environment: An empirical analysis." <i>Ecological Economics</i> 62(3-4): 637-647. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2006.08.003
10/25	Who is involved in corruption, and why?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 5 (pp. 121-150)
10/30	Gender and corruption	Dollar, Fisman, and Gatti (2001). "Are women really the 'fairer' sex? Corruption and women in government." <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> 46(4): 423-429. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/S0167-2681(01)00169-X
11/1	What are the cultural bases of corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 6 (pp. 151-172)
11/6	Moral suasion	Pruckner and Sausgruber (2013). "Honesty on the Streets: A Field Study on Newspaper Purchasing." <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i> 11(3): 661-679. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/jeea.12016
11/8	How do political institutions affect corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 7 (pp. 173-201)
11/13	Accountability and corruption: theory	Tavits and Schwindt-Bayer (2016). "A clarity of responsibility theory of corruption." Chapter 2 in <i>Corruption, Accountability, and Clarity of Responsibility</i> (pp. 17-32) [Available on Canvas]

11/15	Accountability and corruption: evidence	Tavits and Schwindt-Bayer (2016). "Clarity of responsibility and aggregate corruption perceptions." Chapter 4 in <i>Corruption, Accountability, and Clarity of Responsibility</i> (pp. 47-67) [Available on Canvas]
11/20	How do countries shift from high to low corruption?	Fisman and Golden, Chapter 8 (pp. 203-231)
11/22	Class Cancelled	
11/27	Voting behavior and corruption	Klasnja et al. (2014). "Pocketbook vs. Sociotropic Corruption Voting." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 46(1): 67-94. URL: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123414000088
11/29	Patronage, bureaucratic corruption, and reform in the United States of the Gilded Age	Theriault (2004). "Patronage, the Pendleton Act, and the Power of the People." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 65(1): 50-68. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2508.t01-1-00003
12/4	Public disclosure laws in the Russian Federation	Szakonyi (2023). "Indecent Disclosures: Anticorruption Reforms and Political Selection." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 67(3): 503-519. URL: https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12646
12/6	Anti-corruption policy under Xi Jinping in China	Chen and Kung (2019). "Busting the 'Princelings': The Campaign Against Corruption in China's Primary Land Market." <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 134(1): 185-226. URL: https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjv027
12/11	Final Exam Distributed (take home)	
12/16	Final Exam Due	