Causes and Consequences of Corruption
Dr. Bonnie Palifka
Yale Summer Session 2019
Syllabus

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Office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am-11:30am via Zoom

Course intentions: Corruption undermines economic policy, weakens society, exacerbates inequalities, enables crime, and delegitimizes government. Thus, the United Nations has declared that “corruption is the greatest obstacle to economic and social development” and has included anti-corruption among the inter-locking Sustainable Development Goals. This multidisciplinary course introduces students to the causes and consequences of corruption, ways to define and measure corruption, various economic and political models of corruption, and possible solutions.

General objectives:
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:
- Define corruption.
- Compare the level of corruption among countries.
- Identify and explain the causes of corruption.
- Identify and explain the costs and consequences of corruption.
- Model corruption using basic utility-maximization and game theory.
- Evaluate alternative policies aimed at reducing corruption.

Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey questionnaires and data</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team analysis of survey data</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video blogs</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Discussion Threads</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coevaluations</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Each student is expected to apply a corruption survey to the general public. Each survey takes approximately fifteen minutes to complete. The questionnaires are provided in English and Spanish; each student should complete twenty questionnaires via interview during the first week and a half. The professor will form teams with an eye toward international and multidisciplinary composition. Each team will submit three analyses based on the pooled data.
Main text:


Note: This syllabus is provided for informational purposes only. It includes only the assigned readings; video lectures and optional materials (readings, videos, and websites) are listed on the course platform, as are the detailed assignments due. The assigned readings should be completed before each corresponding live session. While it is not necessary to understand all the details of the journal articles, the student should be able to identify the following components of each: purpose, contribution, methodology, data sources, and results.

Program of activities

Week 1
May 29 - June 2
BASIC CONCEPTS
Introduction: What is corruption?

Readings:
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, chapter 1

How is corruption measured?

Assignments:
2. Apply survey (20 copies)
3. Participate in online discussions
4. Submit self- and peer-evaluation

Readings:
Week 2  
June 5-9

CORRUPTION AS AN ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Assignments:
1. Pool team data; analyze individual determinants of corruption
2. Participate in on-line discussions
3. Submit self- and peer-evaluation

Readings:
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, chapters 2-6

The economic impact of corruption: development

The economic impact of corruption: other effects

Who pays bribes?
Why pay bribes?
https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20457

Grand Corruption and Corruption in Hierarchies

Week 3  
June 12-16

CORRUPTION AS A CULTURAL PROBLEM
Assignments:
1. Use team data to analyze cultural aspects of corruption
2. Participate in on-line discussions
3. Submit self- and peer-evaluation

Readings:
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, Chapter 7

Corruption and culture

Corruption in business
Week 4  
June 19-23  
CORRUPTION AS A POLITICAL PROBLEM  
Assignments:  
1. Use team data to analyze political aspects of corruption  
2. Participate in on-line discussions  
3. Submit self- and peer-evaluation  

Readings:  
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, Chapters 8-12  

Corruption and politics  

Week 5  
June 26-30  
ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORM  
Assignments:  
1. Participate in on-line discussions  
2. Submit self- and peer-evaluation  
3. Final exam  

Readings:  
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, chapters 13-16  

http://www.jstor.org/stable/1830482  
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The final exam will be Thursday, June 27, 10:00am-12:00pm EST.
A note on academic honesty

Students are expected to act in accordance with Yale policy regarding plagiarism and other types of academic dishonesty. All written work will be checked for plagiarism. Those found guilty will be penalized accordingly.

Attendance

Attendance at the live sessions (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30, Yale time) is mandatory. Any student who misses a session will be reported to the Dean of Summer Session.

Deadlines

All work must be turned in electronically, as specified, by the due date and time. According to Yale policy, technical difficulties are not an acceptable excuse for late submission. Any work turned in late will be penalized one-half grade for each day late.