

## **Political Science 4512F: Comparative Political Corruption**

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### **Course Description**

What is political corruption? Why does it exist, and persist? What are its effects? Social scientific research has been directed increasingly in recent years towards the issue of corruption. There is growing recognition that political corruption has a profound and multi-faceted influence on human well-being. This has stimulated greater interest in effectively evaluating the character and extent of corruption; improving our understanding of it, in part by placing it more securely in historical and developmental perspective; and developing strategies for reform. Such considerations have also drawn attention to the character of non-corrupt or 'good' government. Can we meaningfully discuss the quality of government? How does good, or impartial, government come about? How can it be sustained? Overall, this seminar familiarizes students with comparative attempts to determine why countries experience corruption in different ways and to very different degrees, as well as with the major anti-corruption approaches and their record of performance.