Comparative Global Corruption
Political Science 4512F/9766A

Professor Bruce Morrison
Office hours: Thursday 10:30-12 or by appointment
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Course Description:

The past couple of decades have witnessed an enormous surge in interest in political corruption on the part of scholars, politicians, and others. Part of our purpose this term will be to try to determine why this has happened, and whether the enhanced attempt to identify, explain and combat corruption has had a significant impact. Do we know what corruption is, and can we measure it and determine its spread across the globe? Can we speak of countries being more or less corrupt, or are there different types or even syndromes of corruption? What have we learned about the causes of corruption? How was corruption marginalized in much of the west, and when did this happen? Why have some highly developed democracies like Italy not proven able to transcend political corruption? Why has China become more corrupt as it has undergone a remarkable process of development in recent decades? What form has the campaign against political corruption assumed at both the national and international levels? And why have the results of this broad and encompassing effort been so unimpressive? This seminar will take a detailed and critical look at the state of corruption in the world, the state of our knowledge about corruption, and the story of the attempt to apply our developing knowledge to its eradication. In so doing, we will touch on a remarkably wide array of topics of interest to students of politics.

Learning Outcomes:

Students in this course will: (a) master the philosophical and practical issues that arise in association with the attempt to define and measure corruption; (b) acquire an appreciation of the global and historical spread of corruption; (c) gain a critical understanding of how cultural, economic, social, and institutional factors cultivate and sustain political corruption; and (d) become capable of identifying and weighing the strengths and weaknesses of the recent global anti-corruption effort.

Requirements and Evaluation:

Active, informed, and consistent participation: 25%
One 15-minute presentation: 15%
Three critical commentaries on the weekly readings, 2-3 pages (3-4 pages for graduate students): 20%
One research paper, 12-15 pages (17-20 pages for graduate students): 40%
SEMINAR READINGS:

Week 1: Introduction
(September 16)
No assigned readings.

Week 2: Defining and Measuring Corruption
(September 23)


Michael M. Atkinson, “Discrepancies in Perceptions of Corruption, or Why is Canada So Corrupt?” *Political Science Quarterly* vol. 126, no. 3 (Fall 2011): 445-64.

Recommended:


Week 3: Changing Conceptions of Corruption
(September 30)


Recommended:


**Week 4: Culture and Corruption**
(October 7)


Recommended:


**Week 5: Economics, Society, and Corruption**
(October 14)


Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), chapter 2.


Recommended:


**Week 6: Institutions and Corruption I: Democracy and Dictatorship**
(October 21)


Recommended:


**Week 7: Institutions II: The Structure and Role of the State**  
(October 28)


**Recommended:**


**Week 8: Marginalizing Corruption in Modern Europe**  
(November 4)


Recommended:


**Week 9: The Italian Case: Systemic Collapse and Failed Reform**  
(November 11)


Recommended:


**Week 10: The Chinese Case: Political Monopoly, Development, and Corruption**  
(November 18)


Recommended:


Robert Harris, *Political Corruption In and Beyond the Nation-State* (Routledge, 2003), chapter 3.


**Week 11: The Global Struggle Against Corruption**  
(November 25)


Recommended:


Week 12: National Anti-Corruption Efforts
(December 2)


Recommended:


**Week 13: Cases of Anti-Corruption Success and Failure: Bangladesh, Kenya, South Korea, Poland, the United Kingdom, and Germany**

(December 9)

Prerequisite checking - the student’s responsibility
"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements
With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")
"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:
• the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
• the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current Western Academic Calendar (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/))
"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work
Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments
In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences
"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
**Submission of Course Requirements**

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

**Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

**Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.**

Students registered in Social Science should refer to [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html) for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty’s academic counselling office.

**University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct**

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com))."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)
In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History
August 13, 1991
Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES
The Registrar’s office can be accessed for Student Support Services at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at: http://westernusc.ca/services/

Student Development Services can be reached at: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.