Course Description:

The past few 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, identify, and measure corruption; (b) acquire an appreciation of the global and historical spread of corruption; (c) gain a critical understanding of how economic, social, cultural, 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.

Course Arrangements:

This seminar will be conducted synchronously, which means that we will meet as a group on a weekly basis at the time scheduled by the registrar to discuss a common set of readings. Although this will not be quite the same as an in-person seminar experience, we will try to approximate it to the maximum extent possible. If we all commit to preparing effectively in advance of the weekly meetings, and to using these meetings to explore key ideas in detail while respectfully sharing our distinctive perspectives on them, then this pedagogical experiment will prove a great success!
Prerequisites: Political Science 2245E or 2231E.

Requirements and Evaluation:

(a) One presentation (10 minutes): 15%
(b) Three critical commentaries on the assigned readings (3-4 pages each): 30%
(c) One research paper (12-14 pages): 35%
(d) Active, informed, and consistent participation: 20%

Presentation (15%): Students are expected to find one additional journal article or book segment (roughly 20-25 pages) that sheds fresh light on the relevant week’s assigned materials. This additional reading may be drawn from the list of recommended items, or it may be the result of an independent search by the student. The presentation will involve: (a) elaboration upon the question, thesis, argumentation, and evidence in the selected article; (b) discussion of the major points of contact with one or more of the assigned readings; (c) an attempt to spell out the key analytical implications and bases for criticism; and (d) identification of two discussion questions. The presentations will be timed, in order to make all possible accommodation for the subsequent seminar discussion. Please identify the additional reading by 5 pm on the Tuesday of the presentation week, and then submit slides by 9 am on the Wednesday.

Critical Commentaries: Students are expected to explore in detailed and critical fashion the arguments presented in at least one of the assigned readings for a given week. A fuller set of criteria for the assignment appears on the OWL site. These papers should be submitted on the OWL site before the beginning of the seminar meeting in question – no later submissions will be accepted. The commentary papers should be submitted in weeks other than the student’s presentation week.

Research Paper: Students are expected to produce a well-researched and argumentative paper on a question tightly related to the themes of the seminar. A fuller description of this assignment appears on the OWL site. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss important developmental steps with the professor, such as the identification of a question or a thesis statement. The paper will be due on April 12, 11:55 pm.

Participation (20%): Students are expected to attend the seminar regularly and be prepared to participate in discussions of the assigned topics and readings. Participation will be assessed based not just on the frequency of a student’s contributions, but more fully on the extent to which they are relevant, well-informed, and at the highest level also insightful. Keep in mind that a good question can reveal the extent of a student’s preparation, while also contributing to the progress of the seminar discussion. Any student who fails to attend at least ten sessions without cause may not be permitted to submit the final research paper.
SEMINAR READINGS:

Week 1: Introduction
(January 13)

No assigned readings.

Week 2: Defining Corruption
(January 20)


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
(January 27)


**Recommended:**


**Week 4: Economics, Society, and Corruption**

(February 3)


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


**Recommended:**

**Week 5: Institutions and Corruption I: Dictatorship and Democracy**
(February 10)


**Recommended:**


**Week 6: Institutions and Corruption II: The Structure and Role of the State**

(February 24)


**Recommended:**
Hung-En Sung, “Fairer Sex or Fairer System? Gender and Corruption Revisited.” *Social Forces* vol. 82, no. 2 (December 2003).  

**Week 7: Marginalizing Corruption in Modern Europe**  
(March 3)


**Recommended:**


Week 8: The Italian Case: Systemic Collapse and Failed Reform (March 10)


Recommended:


Week 9: China Compared: Political Monopoly, Development, and Corruption (March 17)


**Recommended:**


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


**Week 10: The Global Campaign Against Corruption and the Globalization of Corruption**

(March 24)


**Recommended:**


**Week 11: National Anti-Corruption Efforts**

(March 31)


**Recommended:**


**Week 12: Cases of Anti-Corruption Success and Failure**

(April 7)


Recommended:


Sergio Fernando Moro, “Preventing Systemic Corruption in Brazil.” *Daedalus* vol. 147, no. 3 (Summer 2018).

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**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**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

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.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)."
**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. [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

**PLAGIARISM**

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 www.registrar.uwo.ca
• Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
https://westernusc.ca/your-services/

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

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

**Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration**

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

• For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or

• For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

• are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;

• are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

• must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.
Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

**Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the **online Self-Reported Absence portal**. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities **within 48 hours or less**.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

Students will be allowed:

- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;

- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
• The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;

• The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;

• Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;

• Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.

• students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.