Corruption is a global problem that demands urgent attention by scholars, politicians, and civil society. At the domestic level it impedes economic development, wastes resources, and reinforces social inequalities. The abuse of public authority undermines government performance, erodes political legitimacy, and undermines democratic development generally. At the international level corruption is often linked to organized crime, money laundering, arms smuggling and narcotics trafficking. Serious regional violence often has its roots in political misconduct. Because the pernicious effects of corruption have a rippling effect throughout the world, the solutions also increasingly require a global, comparative perspective.

This course discusses the causes of corruption and evaluates various strategies for eliminating the abuse of public authority for personal ends. First, we begin with questions of definition and measurement: How can we identify corruption in its various forms, and how can levels and the prevalence of corruption be measured? Second, we consider how corruption impacts government performance generally and perverts distribution by directing public resources for political favoritism or personal gain. This includes a blunt assessment of opportunism by the private sector and other actors. Third, we explore the roots of corruption in culture, weak governance, or structural distortions. The course examines theories that point to regime type and other institutional varieties of accountability. We conclude by considering the role of courts, legislatures, and the international community in confronting corruption.

**Required readings:**
The readings for each week are listed in the recommended reading sequence, not alphabetically. While the assigned material reflects a broad overview of the relevant theories, its empirical basis draws heavily on African cases. The bookstore has ordered the following required books:


Required journal articles and essays are indicated below by an *asterisk and will be electronically posted on Blackboard. A link is provided for other required readings that will not be posted. In addition, you are responsible for any materials distributed in class.
Assignments:
Short essays – You are required to write two analytical essays of approximately 4-5 double spaced pages in length. You must post your essay on Blackboard by 5 pm the night before class. I encourage you to bring a short list of discussion questions or other handouts to class. Each essay is worth 20 percent of your course grade.

Class participation – You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. In addition, students not presenting on a given day should read the analytical essays distributed via Blackboard in advance. Participation is worth 10 percent of your course grade.

Group project – You must participate in a group project on the role of courts, legislatures, or the international community in countering corruption. This assignment emphasizes the practical application of knowledge and should take the form of a professional presentation. Your “team” will diagnose the state of corruption in one or more countries and offer solutions grounded in comparative knowledge of successful reform efforts. Each student will be graded individually based on a memorandum, no more than three single-spaced pages, concerning his or her contribution to the project. This is worth 20 percent of your grade.

Final paper – Provide an “anatomy” of a corruption scandal. Explain why the activities in question constitute corruption, drawing upon the relevant laws, codes, and regulations pertaining to the issues. Feel free to question whether the activities indeed constitute corruption and to use data describing cultural norms. If possible, include primary sources. Describe how the wrongdoing was concealed and how it was exposed, including an analysis of any failed accountability mechanisms. Conclude by outlining recommendations for reform. You will outline your topic in class on February 18. An annotated bibliography is due on March 24. This assignment is worth 30 percent of your grade. The final paper is due on May 5 at 8:10 pm.

With the exception of the memorandum prepared for your group project, please prepare your assignments as formal essays. Informal social science citations are acceptable (Author year, page) but be sure to include a bibliography. If you have questions about format, consult The Chicago Manual of Style or a similar resource. Use one-inch margins, 12-point type, and double-spacing. Please do not exceed the page limit. For tips on grammar, examine Elements of Style (available online). Papers will not be accepted by email without prior permission.

(1) Introduction and Course Overview (January 14)

Recommended:
(2) Defining Corruption (January 28)

GUEST LECTURE: Carmen Apaza, PhD Student in Public Administration

NOTE: Please bring a newspaper or magazine article about a corruption scandal to class

Rose-Ackerman, Chapters 1 – 3

(3) Measuring Corruption (February 4)


Treisman, Daniel. 2007. “What Have We Learned about the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Research?” Annual Review of Political Science. Available at: http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/treisman/what_have_we_learned.pdf

(4) Government Performance (February 11)


(5) Perspectives on Public Goods (February 18)

Rose-Ackerman, Chapter 8, “Democracy and Corruption: Incentives and Reforms”

→ Outline the subject of your research paper in class today

Strongly Recommended:
(6) Iraq (February 25)
House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform, hearing on “Iraq Reconstruction Overview.” Read the supplemental memo and other materials of your choice at:
http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?id=1175
House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform, Minority Staff Report, “Rebuilding Iraq: Mismanagement of Iraqi Funds,” June 2005. Available at:

Recommended:

CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

(7) Norms, Culture, and Values (March 3)
Rose-Ackerman, Chapter 6
From Lambsdorff, Taube, and Schramm:
Graeff, Peter, “Why Should One Trust in Corruption?”
Uslaner, Eric M. “Trust and Corruption”

Recommended:
Lambsdorff et al., Chapter 1 “Corrupt Contracting,” in Lambsdorff et al.

*** Spring Break: No Class March 10 ***

(8) The Economic Logic of Corruption (March 17)
Rose-Ackerman, Chapters 4 and 5
From Lambsdorff, Taube, and Schramm:
Bray, John. “The Use of Intermediaries and other ‘Alternatives’ to Bribery”
Lambsdorff and Teksoz, “Corrupt Relational Contracting”
della Porta and Vannucci, “The Governance Mechanisms of Corrupt Transactions”
(9) The Resource Curse (March 24)
Rose-Ackerman, Chapter 7

→ Annotated bibliography for your research paper due today.

**Recommended:**

(10) Corruption in Nigeria (March 31)
NOTE: Class will meet for dinner in The Towers East, at 4201 Cathedral Avenue NW


**SOLUTIONS AND REFORMS**

(11) Theorizing Accountability (April 7)
Rose-Ackerman, Chapter 9
In Schedler et al.:
Andreas Schedler, Chapter 2, “Conceptualizing Accountability”
Guillermo O’Donnell, Chapter 3, “Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies”
Richard Sklar et al., Chapter 4, “Comments on O’Donnell”

(12) Reforming Domestic Institutions: Courts (April 14)
In Schedler et al:
Schwartz, Herman, Chapter 9: “A Brief History of Judicial Review”
Domingo, Pilar, Chapter 10: “Judicial Independence and Judicial Reform in Latin America”

→ Presentation by Group #1

(13) Reforming Domestic Institutions: Legislatures (April 21)
GUEST LECTURE: Tom Bridle, Senior Governance Advisor, National Democratic Inst.

National Democratic Institute. 2007. *Transparency and Accountability in Africa’s Extractive Industries: the Role of Legislatures*. (This report will be distributed in class in advance.)


→ Presentation by Group #2

Recommended:
Rose-Ackerman, Chapter 11, “Domestic Conditions for Reform”

(14) The International Community (April 28)

Rose-Ackerman, Chapter 10

Eigen, Peter. “Corruption in International Trade – Pleading for a Responsible WTO,” in Lambsdorff et al.


Galtung and Pope, “The Global Coalition against Corruption,” in Schedler


The World Bank’s revised “Governance and Anti-Corruption strategy paper.” Available at: http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/gacstrategy

Critique of the World Bank’s paper by Dennis de Tray, Center for Global Development. Available at: http://www.cgdev.org/doc/commentary/opinion/DdT_1818_speech.pdf

→ Presentation by Group #3