



ANTI-CORRUPTION STUDIES

THE MASTER'S PROGRAM

COURSE

**CORRUPTION,
PUBLIC POLICY,
AND SOCIETY**

2025/26



Цей навчальний курс став можливим завдяки фінансовій підтримки Міжнародного фонду «Відродження». Зміст цього навчального курсу не обов'язково відображає погляди Міжнародного Фонду «Відродження».

Course description:

During the course you will be taught about the definition of petty and major political corruption, features of corruption in the public and private sectors and also of political and judicial corruption. The features of corruption in “captured states” and approaches to fight corruption in such countries will be highlighted. Causes and consequences of corruption will be outlined; the main reasons for a high level of corruption in countries with emerging economies will be detected. Course participants will learn about the possible ways to fight corruption in developing countries.

COURSE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS:

Lectures, workshops and case-study:

Students must actively participate in discussions and be ready to do tasks during lessons. If there are some changes to course requirements, you will be informed via the group mailing list and oral announcement. Students are responsible to know about these changes even if they are absent from lessons.

Group mailing list:

You will be informed by mailing list of curators via acicp_2019@googlegroups.com. You are responsible for keeping aware of it.

Rules of email communication:

Please, send emails only for: 1) an appointment for additional individual consultations; 2) a notice of absence from the lesson and reasons for it; 3) a request for sending announcements again, changes to the program, schedule or additional course materials. Questions about course materials, lessons or credit procedure should be asked after the lessons or during individual consultation.

Getting extra points:

Extra points are not allowed in this course except the ones that are in the course.

Rules during the lesson:

Please, turn off your phones during the lectures and don't be late to the lessons. Discussions are to be lively and interesting, but express your comments politely. Please, respect others' point of view and express your disagreement with the arguments of others in a polite form.

Ethical rules for writing tasks:

All students must work on projects individually. Group work can only be conducted during the joint project. Students are required to make references in their work and cite all sources and publications. Research without references is considered to be plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will lead to the loss of the right to receive credits for the course.

▲ Completion of educational tasks and work in the discipline must meet the requirements of the "Regulations on Academic Integrity of Students at NaUKMA" [approved by order No. 112 dated 07.03.2018].

Deadlines for Preparing the Written Assignment (Review of the Scientific Article from the Anthology "Corruption Research: Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations")

- **Deadline: 23:59 on November 22, 2025.** (If the deadline is missed, the work will be graded up to a maximum of 14 points.)

Requirements for the Written Assignment:

- Length: Up to 10 pages.
- Font: Times New Roman, size 12.
- References to used sources.
- The assignment should include a brief structural analysis of the source, the author's own position, and arguments that support it.

All assignments should be sent to the email address: anticorruption.study@gmail.com

Grade for the course

ECTS Grade	Scores (Points)	Signification
A	91-100	Excellent
B	81-90	Very Good
C	71-80	Good
D	66-70	Satisfactory
E	60-65	Sufficient
F	30-59	Insufficient
F	0-29	Failed

Division of grades in the course

Assessment Component	Details	Maximum Points 100
In-Class Participation	Participation during classes	5 points per class
Online Course Completion	Completion of the online course	40 points
Analytical Review of an Article	Review of an article from the anthology	30 points (A)
		24 points (B)
		18 points (C)
		12 points (D)
		6 points (E)

Student performance on the independent written assignment is evaluated according to the following criteria:

Assignment	Points	Assessment Criteria
Written Work	30	The work is completed and submitted on time; the author demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic, familiarity with key trends in the development of modern legal science methodology, analytical skills, and the ability for independent, systematic, logical, and coherent thinking, as well as linguistic and stylistic proficiency. The work is formatted according to requirements.
	20-29	The work is completed and submitted on time; the author shows sufficient awareness of key trends in the development of modern science methodology. The presentation is logical and coherent, but there are some factual inaccuracies or linguistic-stylistic deficiencies. Certain parts lack analytical depth.
	10-19	The work is completed and submitted on time. The author demonstrates sufficient knowledge of the material, but the work lacks systematic analysis and logical, coherent presentation. The work contains factual inaccuracies and/or unsupported claims. The text has significant linguistic-stylistic deficiencies.
	0	The assignment is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor or contains plagiarism.



PLAN OF THE COURSE

**CORRUPTION,
PUBLIC POLICY,
AND SOCIETY**

TOPIC 1. INTRODUCTION

Brief description

In this introductory class, we will:

- 🕒 Consider the importance of studying corruption
- 🕒 See how corruption has been defined
- 🕒 Obtain an overview of the areas in which corruption exists and which types of actors are most relevant
- 🕒 Review common misunderstandings about corruption



Materials

- 👁️ Heywood, Paul M. "Rethinking corruption: Hocus-pocus, locus and focus." *Slavonic & East European Review* 95, no. 1 (2017): 21-48.
- 👁️ Ledeneva, Alena, Roxana Bratu, and Philipp Köker. "Corruption studies for the twenty-first century: Paradigm shifts and innovative approaches." *Slavonic & East European Review* 95, no. 1 (2017): 1-20.

TOPIC 2. PERSPECTIVES ON CORRUPTION

Brief description

Corruption can be viewed in different ways. In this class, we will look at the main conceptualizations of corruption that can be found in academic literature, including the principal-agent approach and the collective action approach. We will also look at how the study of corruption has evolved in recent decades.



Materials

- 👁️ Mungiu, Alina. "Corruption: Diagnosis and treatment." *Journal of Democracy* 17, no. 3 (2006): 86-99.
- 👁️ Persson, Anna, Bo Rothstein, and Jan Teorell. "Why anticorruption reforms fail—systemic corruption as a collective action problem." *Governance* 26, no. 3 (2013): 449-471.

TOPIC 3. RELATED CONCEPTS

Brief description

There are many concepts in use that are related to corruption, such as patrimonialism, crony capitalism, rent-seeking, clientelism, and state capture. In this class we will see what is meant by these concepts, and how they are similar or dissimilar from corruption.



Materials

- 👁 Brinkerhoff, Derick W., and Arthur A. Goldsmith. "Clientelism, patrimonialism and democratic governance: An overview and framework for assessment and programming." US Agency for International Development Office of Democracy and Governance (2002): 1-49.

TOPIC 4. MEASURING CORRUPTION

Brief description

Which countries and organizations have more or less corruption? Can we measure corruption? Different measures of corruption exist for the purpose of awareness-raising or academic study. In this class we will ask if corruption can and should be measured at all, and we will look at the benefits and shortcomings of different types of measures of corruption.



Materials


- 👁 Heywood, Paul M. "Measuring Corruption: perspectives, critiques, and limits." In Routledge handbook of political corruption (2015): 137-153.

TOPIC 5. ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION

Brief description

A common distinction is made between administrative corruption, political corruption, and private sector corruption. In this class and the next two classes, we will look at each of these areas of corruption consecutively. Administrative corruption concerns the abuse of power and authority by public officials for private gain. In this class we will look at which types of administrative corruption can be distinguished.

Materials


-  Karklins, Rasma. "Typology of post-communist corruption." *Problems of post-communism* 49, no. 4 (2002): 22-32.

TOPIC 6. POLITICAL CORRUPTION

Brief description

Political corruption concerns the abuse of power and authority by politicians for private gain. In this class, we will look at the main areas in which political corruption occurs, including the formation of laws, campaign finance, the organization of elections, the acceptance of bribes, and the misuse of public funds.

Materials


-  Philp, Mark. "The Definition of Political Corruption" In *Routledge handbook of political corruption* (2015): 17-29

TOPIC 7. PRIVATE SECTOR CORRUPTION

Brief description

Corruption is also common in the private sector. In this class, we will look at the main forms of private sector corruption, including, the distortion of free market principles, bribery of politicians and public officials, tax evasion, and money laundering.

Materials


-  Cooley, Alexander, John Heathershaw, and J. C. Sharman. "The rise of kleptocracy: laundering cash, whitewashing reputations." *Journal of Democracy* 29, no. 1 (2018): 39-53.

TOPIC 8. CAUSES OF CORRUPTION I

Brief description

Why is there more corruption in some countries than in other countries? Why do some people participate in corruption while others do not? In this class and the next, we will look at explanations for different levels of corruption across political entities, organizations, and individuals. This class focusses specifically on the impact of political regime type and the arrangement of political institutions.

Materials


-  Rothstein, Bo, and Jan Teorell. (2015) "Causes of Corruption", in: *Routledge Handbook of Political Corruption*, ed. by Paul M. Heywood. Routledge, New York

TOPIC 9. CAUSES OF CORRUPTION II

Brief description

In this class, we will look at a broad range of explanations for different levels of corruption. These explanations are related to economic factors, the organization of public administration, the role of culture and values, international factors, and the legacies of Soviet communism.

Materials


-  Holmes, L. (2012). "Corruption in Post-Soviet Russia." *Global Change, Peace & Security*24(2): 235-250.

TOPIC 10. CONSEQUENCES OF CORRUPTION

Brief description

It is generally acknowledged that corruption has a wide range of negative consequences. In this class we will ask how corruption brings about specific negative consequences in four different areas: the economy, politics, public administration, and society.

Materials

-  Uslaner, Eric M. (2015). "The Consequences of Corruption", in: *Routledge Handbook of Political Corruption*, ed. by Paul M. Heywood. Routledge, New York

TOPIC 11. ANTI-CORRUPTION I

Brief description

Due to its negative consequences, preventing corruption is one of the main struggles of our time. This class and the next focus on how corruption can be counteracted. In this class, we will look at the key approaches and types of actors in anti-corruption, as well as the actions that different types of actors can take.

Materials

- 👁 Mungiu-Pippidi, Alina. "Controlling corruption through collective action." *Journal of Democracy* 24, no. 1 (2013): 101-115.
- 👁 Engvall, Johan. "Against the Grain: How Georgia Fought Corruption and What It Means" *Silk Road Studies* (2012).

TOPIC 12. ANTI-CORRUPTION II

Brief description

A common distinction is made between administrative corruption, political corruption, and private sector corruption. This class looks at the different measures and policies to fight corruption in each of these areas. We will also look at which measures and policies are known to be effective, and why.

Materials

- 👁 OSCE Handbook on Combating Corruption

TOPIC 13. CORRUPTION IN THE POST- SOVIET SPACE

RECAP

Brief description

Corruption is a major problem in much of the post-Soviet space. The high prevalence of corruption in the region can in part be explained by political and economic developments since the 1990s. In this class, we will look at the relationship between corruption in post-Soviet countries and the issue of state capacity, the phenomenon of oligarchs, organized crime, and conflict.

Materials

- 👁 Chayes, Sarah. "The Structure of Corruption: A Systemic Analysis using Eurasian Cases". Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2016. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2016/06/30/structure-of-corruption-systemic-analysis-using-eurasian-cases-pub-63991>
- 👁 Engvall, Johan. "The State as Investment Market: A Framework for Interpreting the Post Soviet State in Eurasia." *Governance* 28.1 (2015): 25-40.

RESOURCES FOR COMPLETING COURSE ASSIGNMENTS FOR EVALUATION

1. Online Course: "Corruption Research: How It Works?": https://courses.prometheus.org.ua/courses/course-v1_+CSHW101+2018_T1/about
2. Anthology "Corruption Research: Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations": <https://acrec.org.ua/library/corruption-research-book>



Materials

The list of articles from the Anthology "Corruption Research: Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations" for writing the assessment "Analytical Review of an Article" <https://acrec.org.ua/library/corruption-research-book>

1. "Alexander Cooley, John Heathershaw, Jason C. Sharman The Rise of Kleptocracy: Laundering Cash, Whitewashing Reputations
2. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi Corruption: Diagnosis and Treatment
3. Anna Persson, Bo Rothstein, and Jan Teorell Why Anti-Corruption Reforms Fail: Systemic Corruption as a Collective Action Problem
4. Bo Rothstein What is the Opposite of Corruption?
5. Christoph H. Stefes A Theoretical Framework for Understanding the Role of Corruption in Post-Soviet Transitions
6. Heather Marquette, Caryn Peiffer Grappling with the "Real Politics" of Systemic Corruption: Theoretical Debates versus "Real-World" Functions
7. Jakob Svensson Eight Questions about Corruption
8. James C. Scott Corruption, Machine Politics, and Political Change James Scott Comparative Political Corruption

9. Janine R. Wedel Rethinking Corruption in an Age of Ambiguity
10. Joseph S. Nye
11. Corruption and Political Development: A Cost-Benefit Analysis
12. Michael Johnston Corruption, Contention, and Reform: The Power of Deep Democratization
13. Monica Bauer Need or Greed? Conditions for Collective Action Against Corruption
14. Monica Bauer, Marcia Grimes Transparency to Curb Corruption? Concepts, Measures, and Empirical Merit
15. Mushtaq H. Khan Determinants of Corruption in Developing Countries: The Limits of Conventional Economic Analysis
16. Oksana Huss Combining Constructivist and Empirical-Analytical Approaches to the Study of Corruption
17. Oksana Huss Related Concepts and Forms of Corruption in the Post-Soviet Space
18. Paolo Mauro The Effects of Corruption on Growth, Investment, and Government Expenditure
19. Paul M. Heywood Rethinking Corruption: Hocus-Pocus, Locus, and Focus
20. Robert Klitgaard Controlling Corruption

LECTURER OF THE COURSE:

Richard Messick —

Advisor on Legal Development and Anti-Corruption, providing consultancy on corruption risks and anti-corruption innovations. Richard Messick advises international organizations, development agencies, and non-governmental organizations on legal development and anti-corruption efforts. As an attorney at the U.S. Senate, he advised political parties, public officials, corporations, and political committees on campaign finance and ethics, and also represented private individuals and corporations in fraud and corruption cases at the state and federal levels. After serving as Chief Counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he joined the World Bank, where he worked on legal and judicial reform projects and anti-corruption initiatives. His work has been published in scholarly and popular journals, including the American Political Science Review, World Bank Research Observer, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post.

Oksana Nesterenko —

is a Ukrainian legal scholar, public policy analyst, and anti-corruption activist. Dr. Nesterenko is an Associate Professor of Law at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Faculty of Law), and the Executive Director of CSO "The Anti-corruption Research and Education Center". Oksana Nesterenko is a former Non-Resident Fellow at the IERES' Program GWU and Fulbright-Kennan Institute Research Scholar. Oksana Nesterenko used to be a co-founder of the first interdisciplinary Master Program in anti-corruption in Ukraine, and the Eurasian Academic Anti-Corruption Network. As a scholar, lecturer and legal advisor, Dr. Nesterenko focuses on issues in constitutional law and anti-corruption public policy the role of civil society in fighting corruption, freedom of information, whistleblower protection, etc. She is an author and a co-author of 70 publications including the monograph "The Information in Ukraine: The Right to Access", "Civil Society against Corruption in Ukraine", etc. She has been conducting numerous projects designed for increasing transparency and accountability in the government of Ukraine for seventeen years. Oksana Nesterenko participated in drafting on the draft Law of Ukraine "On Corruption Prevention" on Corruption Whistleblowers", the Law "On Access to Public Information", currently Dr. Nesterenko is a member of working group development of the draft law on access to secret information. She is a Member of Scientific Advisory Board of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, a member of CSO "Transparency International of Ukraine," the International Council Member of Transparency International.

#acrecstudy

Kyiv