

SYLLABUS
Master Seminar
„Who or what is corrupt? Interdisciplinary dimensions of corruption“
 Summer Semester 2022
 Lecturers:
 Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau
 Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen
 Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger

Concept

Since the beginning of this millennium, corruption is one of the major policy issues worldwide. International organisations, the European Union, the World Bank and various non-government organizations proceed from the idea that societies can reach development and general welfare only if they manage to curb corruption. But at the same time, corruption is a highly disputed issue, has no generally accepted definition and no generally recognised cure.

In our seminar, we learn about how various disciplines (such as political science, sociology, law, anthropology, history, and linguistics) understand and analyse the phenomenon of corruption, and what policymakers (could) make out of their work. We engage in an interdisciplinary reading of sources and show that a scandalizing newspaper article, an archival document or an interview can be interpreted differently depending on one’s disciplinary approach. Also, we explore the possibilities and limits of combining various approaches.

The seminar is limited to 20 participants.

Recommended reading: Bruce Buchan, Lisa Hill: An intellectual history of political corruption. Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.

Structure

Time/Place	Activity
March 14 - April 25, 2022	<p>ONLY for students from Business and Economics: Enrolment via FLEXNOW Erasmus/exchange students have to register using the accreditation form (which can be found on the homepage) by email to: sekretariat.fo@ur.de</p>

27.04.2022 10-12 am, H19	Introduction: Corruption as an issue in public discourse and policymaking since the 1990s
04.05.2022 10-12 am, H19	Understandings and definitions of corruption: An overview Oskar Kurer: Definitions of Corruption, in: Paul M. Heywood (ed.): Routledge Handbook of Political Corruption. London/New York 2015. pp. 30-41
11.05.2022 10-12 am, H19	Why wording is so important: lexical framing of corruption
18.05.2022 10-12 am, H19	Corruption-as-cheating: Agency theory
25.05.2022 10-12 am, H19	Criticism of the Agency Theory (in various disciplines)
01.06.2022 10-12 am, H19	Measuring corruption Alina Mungiu-Pippidi: The Quest of Good Governance. How Societies Develop Control of Corruption. Cambridge 2015, pp. 27-56.
08.06.2022 10-12 am, H19	Corruption-as-discourse: the power of ascription Konstadinos Maras, Angelos Giannakopoulos, and Ralf Rogowski: The Social Construction of Corruption: Theoretical Reflections, in: Dirk Tänzler, Konstadinos Maras, and Angelos Giannakopoulos (eds.): The Social Construction of Corruption in Europe. Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing Group 2012, pp. 13-29
15.06.2022 10-12 am, H19	The historical approach Jens Ivo Engels: Corruption and Anticorruption in the Era of Modernity and Beyond, in: Ronald Kroeze, André Vitória, André, and Guy Geltner (eds.): Anticorruption in History. From Antiquity to the Modern Era, Oxford: Oxford UP 2018, pp. 167-180.
22.06.2022 10-12 am, H19	The anthropological approach Davide Torsello: The Ethnographic Study of Corruption., in: Paul M. Heywood (ed.): Routledge Handbook of Political Corruption. London/New York 2015, pp. 183-195.
29.06.2022 10-12 am, H19	Your written thesis: What we expect
29.06.2022	Deadline to discuss the team paper concept with one of the lecturers
06.07.2022 10-12 am, H19	Interdisciplinary reading of sources I: A scandalizing newspaper article
13.07.2022 10-12 am, H19	Interdisciplinary reading of sources II: An archival background document
20.07.2022 10-12 am, H19	Interdisciplinary reading of sources III: Conducting an interview
27.07.2022 10-12 am, H19	Concluding discussion Presentation by Matevz Raskovic (Guest Professor UR)
30.09.2022	Deadline to hand in the written thesis (by email to all three lecturers)

Assessment

The assessment for the seminar will take the form of a group project. You will be assigned to a small team of 2-3 students and together you will have to deliver various insights on a specific topic to demonstrate your understanding of the topic in conceptual and theoretical terms. The assessment comprises two components:

1. Each group has to **prepare and present one article** (from the list of mandatory seminar readings) to the seminar plenary and moderate the respective discussion afterwards. Additionally, the students' engagement in the seminar meetings will be considered. This part makes up 25% of the final seminar mark.
2. Each group has to submit a **team paper**. The paper should have a length of 7,000 to 8,000 words (including title page, notes and list of references) and will be written as a collective piece of work. This part makes up 75% of the final seminar mark.

A success pass in the seminar is worth 6 Credits.

Questions?

All further questions and requests can be addressed by email to klaus.buchenau@geschichte.uni-regensburg.de, bjoern.hansen@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de, or thomas.steger@wiwi.uni-regensburg.de.