

Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2020-2021

Corruption Histories

DE147 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Course Description

Corruption and rent-seeking have been identified as major drags on development, political legitimacy and democratization. Regulatory capture, corrupt public administration or excessive rents generated in sectors ranging from finance to public utilities are a social loss and facilitate the entrenchment of economic power and political control in elites. Multilateral organizations and NGOs have duly defined the fight against political corruption and the liberalization of markets as mutually reinforcing policy targets. This course has two aims. First, it introduces the main theories on the origin and prevalence of corruption and rent-seeking in societies. Second, it provides perspective by drawing on the long history of these practices, with a particular emphasis on the interaction between the organization of markets and the opportunities for earning rents. Even though the focus is on corruption at the state level, necessary reference will be made to private sector equivalents such as corporate fraud.

> PROFESSOR

[Rui Pedro Esteves](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

[Raghav Sachdeva](#)

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

Assessment

- Class participation 20%
- Midterm 30%
- Final Exam/ Essay 50%

The assessment of this course is composed of three elements – in-class participation, a compulsory midterm halfway through the course and a final exam, which can be replaced by an essay (up to 15 pages) to be handed in at the end of the semester. Both midterm and final are closed-book. For the

essay, you can either submit a first draft of a new research paper. If you choose this option, you are required to work with primary sources. Or you can prepare a literature review on one of the topics covered in the course. In both cases you should check with me first about the topic, and I will be happy to provide guidance throughout the semester. There are a number of deadlines if you choose to write an essay, as follows:

2 November – deadline to opt out of the final exam. You must hand in a title and a one-page abstract of your idea for the essay.

9 November – deadline to hand in a preliminary review of relevant literature (if you choose to write a research paper) or a list of the references you will be writing your literature review.

14 December 12:00pm: deadline to hand in the paper electronically by emailing it to me and the course TA.

1. Introductory Session (21/9)

- Topic and Methods
- Organization
- Students' background and goals
- Course's goals

2. What is Corruption? (28/9)

Gambetta, Diego (2004) "Corruption: An Analytical Map" in E. Kreike and W. Jordan, eds., *Corrupt Histories*, Rochester: University of Rochester Press, pp. 3-28.

Svensson, Jakob (2005) "Eight Questions About Corruption," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 19(3): 19-42.

3. An Old Problem – Opportunity Makes a Thief (5/10)

Arena, Valentina (2018) "Fighting Corruption: Political Thought and Practice in The Late Roman Republic" in R. Kroeze, A. Vitória and G. Geltner, eds., *Anti-corruption in History: From Antiquity to the Modern Era*, Oxford: OUP, pp. 35-48.

Will, Pierre-Etienne (2004) "Officials and Money in Late Imperial China: State Finances, Private Expectations, and the Problem of Corruption in a Changing Environment" in E. Kreike and W. Jordan, eds., *Corrupt Histories*, Rochester: University of Rochester Press, pp. 29-82

4. 'Old Corruption' in Patrimonial States (12/10)

Watts, John (2018) "The Problem of the Personal: Tackling Corruption in Later Medieval England, 1250-1550" in R. Kroeze, A. Vitória and G. Geltner, eds., *Anti-corruption in History: From Antiquity to the Modern Era*, Oxford: OUP, pp. 91-102.

Root, Hilton (1994) "The Redistributive Role of Government: Economic Regulation in Old Regime France and England," *Past & Present* 36(2): 338-69.

5. European Corruption in the Tropics (19/10)

Grafe, Regina and Alejandra Irigoin (2012) "A stakeholder empire: the political economy of Spanish imperial rule in America," *Economic History Review* 65(2): 609-51.

Newbury, Colin (2000) "Patrons, Clients, and Empire: The Subordination of Indigenous Hierarchies in Asia and Africa" *Journal of World History* 11 (2): 227-63.

6. Venality (26/10)

Descimon, R. (2006) "La venalité des offices comme dette publique sous l'Ancien Régime français. Le bien commun au pays des intérêts privés" in J. Andreau, G. Béaur and J.-Y. Grenier (eds.) *La dette publique dans l'histoire*, Paris: Institut de la gestion publique et du développement économique.

Doyle, William (1996) *Venality. The Sale of Offices in Eighteenth-Century France*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, chapter 1, pp. 1-25.

7. In-Class Midterm (2/11)

8. The End of 'Old Corruption' (9/11)

Doyle, William (1996) *Venality. The Sale of Offices in Eighteenth-Century France*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, chapter 9, pp. 275-311.

Doyle, William (2004) "Changing Notions of Public Corruption, c. 1770-1850" in E. Kreike and W. Jordan, eds., *Corrupt Histories*, Rochester: University of Rochester Press, pp. 83-95.

Harling, Philip (1995) "Rethinking "Old Corruption"," *Past & Present* 147: 127-58.

9. The Causes of Corruption (16/11)

Aidt, Toke (2003) "Economic Analysis of Corruption: A Survey," *Economic Journal* 113: F632-F652.

Treisman, Daniel (2007) "What Have We Learned About the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Empirical Research?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 10: 211-44.

10. Becoming Denmark (23/11)

Jensen, Mette-Frisk (2018) "Statebuilding, Establishing Rule of Law and Fighting Corruption in Denmark, 1660–1900" in R. Kroeze, A. Vitória and G. Geltner, eds., *Anti-corruption in History: From Antiquity to the Modern Era*, Oxford: OUP, pp. 197-210.

Mungiu-Pippidi, Alina (2013) "Becoming Denmark: Historical Designs of Corruption Control," *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 80(4): 1259-86.

11. The Burden of Corruption (30/11)

Hodge, Andrew, Sriram Shankar, D.S. Prasada Rao and Alan Duhs (2011) "Exploring the Links Between Corruption and Growth," *Review of Development Economic* 15(3): 474–90.

Olken, Benjamin and Rohini Pande (2012) "Corruption in Developing Countries," *Annual Review of Economics* 4: 479–509.

12. The Bigger Picture – How Societies Organize (7/12)

Gupta, Akhil (2006) "Blurred Boundaries: The Discourse of Corruption, the Culture of Politics, and the Imagined State" in A. Sharma, A., and A. Gupta, (eds.) *The anthropology of the state : A reader*, Oxford: OUP, pp. 211-242.

North, Douglass, John Wallis, Steven Webb, and Barry Weingast (2014) "Limited Access Orders: Rethinking the Problems of Development and Violence", *Mimeo*.

13. In-Class Final (14/12)