

Syllabus  
**Anti-Corruption Policy and Reforms**  
(4 ECTS)

Author: Sergey A. Parkhomenko ([sparkhomenko@hse.ru](mailto:sparkhomenko@hse.ru))  
Department of politics and governance

## **1. Course Description**

### a) Pre-requisites

The course is a second year elective for the master's programme "Political Analysis and Public Policy" and requires prior general knowledge in political science and public policy analysis. It is also expected that the students are familiar with social research methodology, possess sufficient training in the IT sphere and have developed competencies of group work.

### b) Abstract

Corruption is one of the most disturbing issues of contemporary social development. Administrative corruption questions the capability of a state to deal efficiently with the challenges it is facing. Political corruption makes the democratic process vulnerable to manipulation and abuse. Business corruption threatens competitiveness of national economy. Overall, the states having high level of corruption are usually less efficient and competitive in the international arena and have fewer opportunities for development in the strategic perspective.

This course is devoted to the in-depth analysis of corruption phenomenon and anti-corruption policy both from theoretical and practical perspectives. The detailed analysis of the corruption phenomenon in its complexity and controversy is very important for proper agenda-setting and policy-formulation. Analysis of the context for anti-corruption policy-making and implementation is the next major part of the course program. The cases of successes and failures in the anti-corruption sphere provide us the necessary material for evaluation and reconsideration of the relevant instruments, processes and events in the anti-corruption field.

## **2. Learning Objectives**

Learning objectives of the course are:

- to provide students with thorough understanding of the corruption phenomenon;

- to provide students with knowledge of up-to-date experience of anticorruption policy implementation in different spheres and of the role and the place of anti-corruption component in the course of public administration reforms, civil service reforms, etc.;
- to provide students with detailed “pros-cons” analysis of possible counter-corruption strategies, that could be used for struggling corruption in Russia and abroad in different cultural, political, social, and economic settings;
- to give students overview of legal regulation in the sphere of fighting corruption (cases from Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America, Africa);
- to help participating students to identify the problems of anticorruption regulation and its practical implementation in their home countries;
- to help students to determine the most urgent and prospective anticorruption initiatives to be implemented in their home countries;
- to provide the competencies necessary for effective and rational participation in development and implementation of such initiatives.

### 3. Learning Outcomes

As a result of mastering the course the student should:

- **Know** the theories of the corruption phenomenon, the international experience of fighting corruption, the general recommendation on tackling corruption at different levels of public administration, the elements of anticorruption policy in Russia, and practice of anticorruption regulation of today Russia;
- **Be able** to analyze the situation for corruption threats and anticorruption potential, and participate in development and implementation of anticorruption policy;
- **Acquire the skills** for analysis of the corruption processes in everyday practices, developing anticorruption initiatives, planning the implementation stage of the public policy in the counter-corruption sphere.

#### 4. Course Plan

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours		Independent students' work
			Lectures	Seminars	
1.	Introduction to the course. Theoretical basis of the course. History of corruption. Definition of corruption. Principal-agent approach. Collective action approach. Causes and consequences of corruption. - Group discussions "Understanding corruption", "Corruption in the world: political regimes and corruption", "History, cultural heritage and corruption".	16	2	6	8
2.	Types of corruption and corrupt behavior and their nuances: petty, grand, political, electoral, systemic, administrative, business, vertical and horizontal and other types of corruption. - Group discussion "Cultural context and its effects on the nature of corruption"	16	2	2	12
3.	"Real-world" corruption explanations: sociology, psychology and public administration theories about corruption. Modelling corruption. - Group discussion "Attitude to participants of corruption", "Is it possible to predict corruption?"	16	2	2	12
4.	Measuring corruption and policymaking: tackling corruption diversity issue. - Group discussion "Corruption: are bad numbers good and vice versa?"	16	2	2	12
5.	The participants of anti-corruption reforms: government, NGOs, civil society, citizens, businesses. - Group discussion "How to involve society into anti-corruption process"	16	2	2	12
6.	International anticorruption efforts: organizational environment and international legal anticorruption regulation. - Group discussion on the anti-corruption practices related to US FCPA and UK Bribery Act	16	2	2	12
7.	Civil service reforms, ethics and anticorruption efforts around the world. - Group discussion "Instrumental, cultural, administrative, and political diversity of anti-corruption initiatives"	24	2	4	18
8.	Open seminar "Anti-corruption policy: success and failure cases" The topics may include but are not limited to: - By the activity sphere: public procurement,	32	0	6	26

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours		Independent students' work
			Lectures	Seminars	
	public services, outsourcing, public regulation, corrupt lobbying, political corruption, judicial corruption, law enforcement, organized crime, extractive industry, forestry, construction, corruption in business, etc. - By the anti-corruption policy elements: ethical standards, public disclosure, whistleblowing implementation, conflict of interests regulation, gifts and benefits regulation, sponsorship and joint ventures regulation, post-separation employment regulation, secondary employment regulation, commercial activities regulation, political process transparency, etc.				
<b>Total:</b>		<b>152</b>	14	26	112

## 5. Reading List

### a) Required

- Campos, J. Edgardo; Pradhan, Sanjay. 2007. The Many Faces of Corruption: Tracking Vulnerabilities at the Sector Level. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. <https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1596/978-0-8213-6725-4>. Available from HSE subscription to WB eLibrary.
- Hough, Dan. Corruption, Anti-Corruption and Governance, Palgrave Macmillan Limited, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1183190>.
- Where Corruption Lives, edited by Gerald E. Caiden, et al., Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3328856>.
- Transparency, International. Special Focus : Political Corruption, Pluto Press, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3386488>.
- Corruption and Anti-Corruption, edited by Larmour, ANU Press, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4571743>.

### b) Optional

- Corruption : Anthropological Perspectives, edited by Dieter Haller, and Cris Shore, Pluto Press, 2005. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3386481>.

- Corruption : Expanding the Focus, edited by Manuhua Barcham, et al., ANU Press, 2012. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4595543>.
- Performance Accountability and Combating Corruption, edited by Anwar Shah, World Bank Publications, 2007. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=459695>.
- Lambsdorff, Johann Graf, et al. The New Institutional Economics of Corruption, Taylor & Francis Group, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=200661>.
- Corruption, Global Security, and World Order, edited by Robert I. Rotberg, Brookings Institution Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=472736>.
- Corruption, Grabbing and Development : Real World Challenges, edited by T. Søreide, and A. Williams, Edward Elgar Publishing, Incorporated, 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1593376>.
- Duvanova, D. (2007). Bureaucratic Corruption and Collective Action: Business Associations in the Postcommunist Transition. Comparative Politics, 39(4), 441-461. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20434054>
- Petkoski, D., Warren, D., & Laufer, W. (2009). Collective Strategies in Fighting Corruption: Some Intuitions and Counter Intuitions. Journal of Business Ethics, 88, 815-822. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27749751>

## 6. Grading System

Type of grading	Type of work	2 <sup>nd</sup> year				Department	Characteristics
		1	2	3	4		
Current	In-class activities	v	v			DPG	Class attendance, participation, results of in-class tests and other in-class assignments
Current	Presentation		1			DPG	Presentation of an individual student research project during one of the seminars or submission of a
Final	Written report		1			DPG	Written report on the individual research project (2500 – 3000 words) devoted to student anti-corruption research project.

### In-class activities

The students are attending the classes and participating in the in-class activities, which include but are not limited to group discussions, case study, research presentations, tests, etc. Attendance and participation equal to 50% of the grade for in-class activities, test and special assignments results – to 50% of the grade for in-class activities.

Absence from classes and missed tests may be compensated by additional research on anti-corruption policy. The particular topics for such research are to be discussed with and approved by the teacher. The students prepare a presentation devoted to a case of anti-corruption policy making and implementation in a country of a student's choice. The presentation needs to be based on an independent research conducted by the student. It cannot be based on a single source of information. The research must be analytical, must contain student's findings and conclusions, and must be presented during the classes.

### **Presentation**

All students are supposed to conduct individual research of a problem related to anti-corruption policy. The topics are proposed by the students at the beginning of the course and approved by the lecturer. Changing the topic is possible on prior request, but not later than 2 weeks prior to the presentation date. The range of the topics is set in this syllabus, but is not limited to the topics explicitly mentioned.

The oral presentation (with mandatory visual support – ppt, etc.) of an individual student research project is done during one of the classes or the final open seminar “Anti-corruption policy: success and failure cases”. The format includes 10 minutes presentation and up to 10 minutes discussion.

### **Final exam**

The final exam is in the form of written research report on the individual student research (described above).

### **Evaluation criteria**

The essay/presentation and the final exam are graded on the basis of the quality of the research conducted: independence of the research, richness of the material, coverage of the issues in focus, clarity and effectiveness of the material presentation, etc.

### **Grading formula**

The final grade is composed of a cumulative grade and the exam. The cumulative and final grades are composed according to the following formulas (G stands for “grade”).

$$G_{\text{final}} = 0.7 G_{\text{cumulative}} + 0.3 G_{\text{exam}}$$
$$G_{\text{cumulative}} = 0.6 G_{\text{in-class activities}} + 0.4 G_{\text{presentation}}$$

where

$G_{\text{in-class activities}}$  is the grade for attendance and participation during the classes

$G_{\text{presentation}}$  is the grade for the presentation during the classes (or the essay).

Current and final forms of control are graded on a 10- point scale with rounding up of the final grade. Only the final grade goes into the Master Degree certificate.

### **7. Examination Type**

The final exam is in the form of written research report.

### **8. Methods of Instruction**

The course is built upon the combination of modern educational techniques. It combines active and interactive forms of teaching. It relies more on discussion and group work than on conventional lecturing. So the students are supposed to actively participate in the in-class group work. They are also expected to do their homework and additional reading and then present their findings and ideas during the classes.

### **9. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)**

The course requires a computer (laptop) and a projector for Power Point presentations. The students should be able to access the HSE Library resources.