



## SOC/POL 250 Social Construction of Corruption in Post-Soviet Countries (4 Credits)

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### *Course Description*

The course examines corruption as a social problem and a phenomenon that illustrates certain problems in sociology and other social sciences. Sociology of corruption as a subfield failed to take off despite the ubiquity of this phenomenon. Studies of corruption remain a prerogative of the political scientists and public policy experts. Economists see corruption as a market-distorting externality and treat it as a peripheral subject. In many countries in the developing world, corruption has become part of the fabric of society. Yet, sociological theorization and empirical studies are lacking. This course examines corruption both as a social problem and as an indicator of the 'corruption of sociology'. Special attention is paid to the social construction of corruption and case analysis of corruption practice in post-Soviet countries.

The course aims to familiarize the students with theoretical and practical aspect of sociological approach to analyzing corruption in post-soviet countries. The course will be divided into the following parts:

- Sociology of corruption (theory and approaches to corruption)
- Social construction of corruption (factors, socio-cultural peculiarity, motivation, attitudes)
- Cases and data analyses of corruption in post-soviet countries (using the data from different research studies and comparative analysis)

<b>Course Outline</b>
<b>Module 1</b> Sociology of corruption <b>Theme 1.</b> Introduction to the course Define corruption: theoretical approaches and methodology
<b>Theme 2</b> Institutional corruption
<b>Theme 3</b> Mass media and corruption  What can a journalist do in the fight against corruption: public expectations vs reality.
<b>Theme 4</b> Business environment and corruption
<b>Theme5</b> Political parties and corruption
<b>Module 2</b> Social construction of corruption  <b>Theme 6</b> Attitudes towards corruption
<b>Simulation:</b> Election Fraud Simulation.
<b>Module 3</b> Cases and data analyses of corruption <b>Theme 7</b>



World experience to combat corruption: comparative analysis
<b>Theme 8</b> International research on corruption (global corruption barometer, world bank, etc.) <b>Measuring corruption: tools</b>
<b>Theme 9</b> Corruption index: global bribery and corruption worldwide

## Paper

One paper is required in this course. The paper will be written by students on a topic related to this course. The paper should be 15-17 pages in length and should be well researched using outside resources such as books, articles from peer reviewed journals, and other sources.

## Discussions

There will be 8 discussion boards for students to post comments to during the semester. They will be on various topics relevant to this course.

*The information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.*