HEINZ COLLEGE
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA

Course Syllabus and Outline

90-859 Understanding and Preventing Corruption K2
Fall 2018

Instructor
Professor Adam Graycar
TBC (to be updated once Andrew ID is generated)

Office Times
By appointment

Lecture
Thursdays, 1:30pm – 4:50pm

Pre-Requisites
none

Course Description
With the World Bank estimating that globally about $1 trillion per year is paid in bribes, and that this illegality leads to poor economic performance and human rights violations, this course examines the phenomenon of corruption, identifies the contexts within which it flourishes, explores means of measuring it, and analyses the opportunity structure for corruption. The course also touches on corruption control, and pathways to prevention.

Learning objectives
At the end of this module students will be able to
1. Describe different concepts, definitions and measures of corruption
2. Illustrate corrupt behaviour with specific examples
3. Analyse types of corruption in different settings
4. Move beyond description of corruption to strategic analysis for intervention or prevention

Student Expectations
A high level of individual student motivation and initiative will be expected. All the lecture notes and homework and project submissions will be posted on the Canvas: Students should refer and post to the class Canvas regularly.

Required readings
These will all be available in PDF format.
Course Performance Evaluation

- Final Essay 67%
- Three short analytical pieces 33%

Grades

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Assignments

There will be one major essay of 3000 words due one week after classes finish (Week 7).

There will also be three short reading assignments spread through the course.

Submissions

- Assignments must be submitted through the Canvas unless otherwise specified.
- Your file should be named yourname_assignment_x, where “x” is the assignment number (1, 2, 3 or 4). You will lose mark if you do not follow this rule!
- The deadline for all submissions is 11:59 pm Adelaide time on the submission date, unless otherwise specified. You will automatically lose 30% of the credit if you are late by up to one day. No credit will be given for a later submission.

Ethical Standards

Students at Carnegie Mellon are engaged in preparation for professional activity of the highest standards. Each profession constrains its members with both ethical responsibilities and disciplinary limits. To assure the validity of the learning experience Carnegie Mellon establishes clear standards for student work. You are required to be familiar with related university policies on this subject. An extract of these policies is reproduced here:

In any presentation, creative, artistic, or research, it is the ethical responsibility of each student to identify the conceptual sources of the work submitted. Failure to do so is dishonest and is the basis for a charge of cheating or plagiarism, which is subject to disciplinary action.

Cheating includes but is not necessarily limited to:

- Plagiarism, explained below.
- Submission of work that is not the student’s own for papers, assignments or exams.
- Submission or use of falsified data.
- Theft of or unauthorized access to an exam.
- Use of an alternate, stand-in or proxy during an examination.
- Use of unauthorized material including textbooks, notes or computer programs in the preparation of an assignment or during an examination.
- Supplying or communicating in any way unauthorized information to another student for the preparation of an assignment or during an examination.
Decision Making Under Uncertainty Course Outline and Syllabus

- Collaboration in the preparation of an assignment. Unless specifically permitted or required by the instructor, collaboration will usually be viewed by the university as cheating. Each student, therefore, is responsible for understanding the policies of the department offering any course as they refer to the amount of help and collaboration permitted in preparation of assignments.

- Submission of the same work for credit in two courses without obtaining the permission of the instructors beforehand.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, failure to indicate the source with quotation marks or footnotes where appropriate if any of the following are reproduced in the work submitted by a student:

- A phrase, written or musical.
- A graphic element.
- A proof.
- Specific language.
- An idea derived from the work, published or unpublished, of another person.

As a matter of policy cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught, you will automatically lose ALL marks for that exam/assignment and may face further disciplinary action.

In regards to any project/report/assignment submissions, put in quotation mark “” any text that is not written by you (e.g. copied from somewhere, written by a colleague, etc), and clearly indicate the source. Failure to do so equals plagiarizing. Moreover, in general such quotation should be done very sparsely and only to illustrate the point you are making. Furthermore, paraphrasing is not allowed – you need to understand the topic and write it in your own words.
Course Schedule

**Week 1**  What is Corruption and What it is not (describing and understanding corruption)
Unethical behaviour is about much more than corruption. Often, more ‘grey area’ behaviour can turn into corruption if institutions and sectors lack mechanisms to detect, register, and correct such behaviour. This class will focus on classification of different corrupt behaviours and the context within which they operate.

Readings

**Week 2**  Conflict of Interest and Accountability
Being accountable means that one is called to account for one’s actions in exercising the authority by which an officer acts. One should act in the interests of those who confer that authority, and officers have a responsibility to be transparent in exercising that authority. This session will cover different types of accountability. Accountability can be upwards, horizontal or downwards. One feature that limits accountability is conflict of interest, and this session will also cover the notion of gifts as a form of social exchange. Is there a difference between a gift and a bribe?

Readings

**Week 3**  Measuring Corruption, and its Risks and Opportunities
How much corruption is there? There are various measures, though a measure of actual corruption is always elusive. This session will focus on different types of measures, ranging from perceptions to risks. Understanding how to assess the incidence, the perceptions and the costs of corruption is central to any policy response.

Readings
Week 4  Corruption in Procurement
Governments buy services, products and infrastructure, and within these categories there are myriad sub parts. Public procurement involves expenditure of trillions of dollars. It is estimated that the volume of public procurement in OECD countries amounts to about €4.2 trillion per year. This is 12% of GDP and 29% of general government expenditure in these countries. Globally TI estimates that about USD $2 trillion of government procurement dollars “disappear” (out of about $9.5 trillion) In Asia public procurement is the largest part of national budgets, and corruption in procurement is considerable. This sessions analyses types and activities of corruption in procurement and examines policy responses

Readings

Week 5  Corruption in sectors
Some sectors are more corrupt than others. For example, there is corruption in timber logging, water management in some countries, construction, toxic waste disposal, sports, fisheries. Much of this would not be possible without the support of corrupt public officials. One or two cases will be used in this class. Sometimes organised crime can infiltrate or dominate significant institutions such as the judiciary, political parties, police or prison administration.

Readings
To be advised: depends on which sectors we choose to cover

Week 6  Pathways to Prevention
Understanding opportunity for corruption is the first step towards prevention. Prevention can take many forms from criminalization to capacity building to integrity enhancement to building a social movement against corruption. Analysis of strategies to make corrupt places less corrupt.

Readings