

## SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT *CORRUPTION, ELITES, AND PUBLIC POLICY*

Dr. Janine R. Wedel

Distinguished University Professor

Telephone: 703-993-3567

Email: [jwedel@gmu.edu](mailto:jwedel@gmu.edu)

Course: POGO 750-001

Fall 2025

Place: Arlington, Van Metre Hall, Room 478

Time: Mondays, in person: 4:30-7:10 pm

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm, Room 638 in Arlington, and by appointment

[Zoom for guest speakers](#)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“Elite corruption” is blamed for fomenting the anti-system movements that continue to animate Donald Trump, Brexiteers in the United Kingdom, and “populist” leaders across the globe. “Institutional corruption,” systemic and fully legal, is said to be widespread in the United States and other liberal democracies. Politicians and celebrities the world over have found new ways to hide often ill-gotten money and evade taxes, as exposed by the Panama, Paradise, and Pandora Papers. And a new breed of influencers, with “shadow elites” at the helm, have arisen amid seismic transformational developments over the past several decades.

How did we get to *now*? This course examines “elites,” “corruption,” and “elite corruption” in liberal democracies from a comparative and historical perspective. Special attention is paid to policy decisions that have created new spaces for corruption, as well as to the growth over recent decades of enabling industries that facilitate money laundering, offshoring, and reputational laundering. We also consider post-Cold War international anti-corruption regimes and ask why Western elite corruption has proliferated over roughly the same timeframe as these regimes established themselves.

Learning outcomes will be assessed in terms of having learned to:

- Analyze corruption and elites in historical, political, and societal contexts;
- Identify key points in the readings; and
- Write clearly, succinctly, and reflectively.

### REQUIREMENTS:

***Our Social Contact:*** To create the most productive and enjoyable class, we bring curiosity, energy, and hard work to our mutual learning and exploration of this emerging field.

***Thinking Points (40%):*** Four written thinking points (up to two single-spaced pages, with paragraph breaks) that critically review and summarize required readings for SELECTED CLASS SESSIONS. **EVERYONE MUST DO THINKING POINTS ON TOPIC 2.** Thinking points must be written in essay form. They are due on the day of class, before class; they cannot be turned in late. You MUST put the following information on the top of each assignment: (1) full name; (2) course number; (3)

phone number and e-mail address; (4) topic number and due date; and (5) all literature covered in your essay.

One (or two, as agreed upon with the professor) of the following assignments are required (35%):

- **Case study.** Select a case. Describe, analyze, and possibly also map the case using the shadow elite framework (see *Shadow Elite*, Chapter 1). Four-ten pages, not including references, graphics, etc.
- **Annotated Bibliography.** Select a topic (such as Kremlin influencing on certain energy policies, offshore cities, financial or banking centers, political venues, or universities and think tanks; or the roles of “enablers” in legal, financial, real estate, or PR arenas) and put together an annotated bibliography of the most authoritative materials on the topic.
- **Data Coding.** To be discussed in class.

**Class Presentation, Participation, Effort, and Approach (25%):** Students will be asked to critically review the literature in class and sometimes to lead class discussion. Please note: Because it is impossible to participate in class without being present, class attendance is REQUIRED. Also, while speaking in class is important, the amount of speaking time needs to be balanced with the need for other students to have air time, the quality of listening, efforts to build on the contributions of others, and thoughtfulness of comments. The professor keeps weekly notes on students’ participation for grading at the end of the semester.

**Style Manual:** Please use the most recent version of the *Chicago Manual of Style, Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, or some similar widely accepted standard.

**Statement on Special Needs of Students:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

## READINGS:

*Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus, all articles, essays, and portions of books are available on Blackboard under “course content” or on E-reserve.*

To access, log into your Blackboard account and go to the “course content” page. Should the **Blackboard** technology fail, please contact [Course Support](#). If you encounter further problems, please contact the ITS support center: 703-993-8870.

## SCHAR SCHOOL POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depends fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the Schar School of Policy and Government. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the Schar School takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero-tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the Schar School policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The Schar School policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the [George Mason University Academic Standards Code](#); it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

## PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Janine R. Wedel, award-winning author and Distinguished University Professor, writes about governing, corruption, and elite influencers through the lens of a social anthropologist. A five-time Fulbright fellow, she is also the first anthropologist to win the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order, an honor typically reserved for political scientists (previous recipients include Samuel Huntington and Mikhail Gorbachev). She also has won awards from the MacArthur Foundation, National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, Institute for New Economic Thinking, German Marshall Fund, among many others.

A public intellectual, Wedel's books include *Unaccountable: How Elite Power Brokers Corrupt our Finances, Freedom, and Security* (Pegasus, updated kindle & paperback 2016); *Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Undermine Democracy, Government, and the Free Market* (Basic Books 2009); *Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe* (Palgrave 2001); and *The Private Poland* (1996). She has contributed analysis pieces to more than a dozen major outlets, including the *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and the *Wall Street Journal Europe*, and her work has been reviewed or translated into more than a dozen languages. Wedel is co-founder and past president of the Association for the Anthropology of Policy (ASAP), a section of the American Anthropological Association.

**August 25:** Overview of course, including introduction to assignments and databases from Mapping Shadow Influence project

**September 1:** LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

**September 8:** Money Laundering, Offshoring, Financial Havens

Required Reading/Viewing/Listening

- Film: The Laundromat (Netflix)
- [Film: "We're Not Broke"](#)

- An introduction to beneficial ownership, tax transparency and avoidance, and illicit financial flows
- Nicholas Shaxson, *Treasure Islands: Uncovering the Damage of Offshore Banking and Tax Havens*, 2011, Prologue and Chapter 1 – Required; (Chapters 3, 4, & 10 – Recommended). (See also: Nicholas Shaxson, "[The City of London Is Hiding the World's Stolen Money](#)," *The New York Times*, October 11, 2011.)
- Janine R. Wedel, "[Caymans' Folly: Do You Know Where Your Pension Funds Are?](#)" *The Huffington Post*, February 14, 2013.

Required Reading/Viewing/Listening: Choose ONE of the following books:

- Tom Burgis, *Kleptopia: How dirty money is conquering the world*, London: William Collins, 2020.
- Oliver Bullough, *Butler to the World: How Britain helps the world's worst people launder money, commit crimes, and get away with anything*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2022.
- Oliver Bullough, *Moneyland: The inside story of the crooks and Kleptocrats who rule the world*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2019. (See also review in *The Guardian*: "[Moneyland by Oliver Bullough review – the shadow world of the super-rich](#)," and [NPR interview with Oliver Bullough](#).)
- Kojo Koram, *Uncommon Wealth: Britain and the aftermath of empire*. Hachette, 2022.

#### Required Case Study

- [The speaker in the video, Prof. Kristian Lasslett, provides commentary to bring this case he investigated alive.](#) It focuses on bribes offered to the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea by a Chinese company, part of a gift involving a community college scheme and Chinese government loans. So something laudable used for nefarious ends. The sum result was that the Prime Minister of PNG and his son got new mansions. The fixers got prison in Singapore (but not the recipient or giver of the bribe). And all was channeled through Standard Chartered Bank (UK criminal organization that also sometimes operates as a bank) and the BVIs.

#### Money Laundering, Offshoring, Financial Havens - Continued

Recommended Exercise:

- Look up ICIJ work on Panama, Paradise, or Pandora Papers.
- Look up recent money laundering scandals involving these banks - Bank of New York, Deutsche Bank, Danske Bank, Swedbank, ABLV (Latvian Bank).

Recommended sources on financialization, money laundering, dark money, campaign finance:

- Aeron Davis and Karel Williams, "[Elites and Power After Financialization](#)," *Theory, Culture, & Society*, 2017, vol. 34, no. 5-6, pp. 3-26.
- Baker, Raymond W., *Invisible Trillions: How Financial Secrecy Is Imperiling Capitalism and Democracy—and the Way to Renew Our Broken System*, Oakland, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., Part I, pp. 1-88.
- [Film: The Spider's Web: Britain's Second Empire](#)
- Neil Barnett and Alastair Sloan, [Democracy in the Crosshairs; How Political](#)

[Money Laundering Threatens the Democratic Process](#), Atlantic Council, September 2018,

- Mayer, Jane. *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires behind the Rise of the Radical Right*. New York: Anchor Books, 2017.

Further Resources:

- Alexander Cooley and John Heathershaw, *Dictators Without Borders: Power and Money in Central Asia*, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2017.
- William K. Black, *The Best Way to Rob a Bank Is to Own One: How Corporate Executives and Politicians Looted the S&L Industry*, 2005.

Recommended 4-part documentary: Netflix: Gunther's Millions

**September 15:** Who are Elites, What is Corruption, and How do they Overlap?

Required Reading:

- Tijo Salverda and Jon Abbink, *The Anthropology of Elites*, "Introduction: An Anthropological Perspective on Elite Power and the Cultural Politics of Elites," 2013.
- Michael Johnston, *Syndromes of Corruption: Wealth, Power and Democracy*, 2005: Preface, Introduction, & Chapter 4 – Required; (Chapters 2 & 3 – Recommended).
- Janine R. Wedel. "[From Power Elites to Influence Elites: Resetting Elite Studies for the 21st Century](#)," *Theory, Culture & Society*, 2017, vol. 34, no. 5-6: pp. 153-178.

Further Resources:

- Jeffrey A. Winters, *Oligarchy*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Murray Milner, Jr., *Elites: A General Model*, Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2015.
- Richard L. Zweigenhaft and G. William Domhoff, *Diversity In the Power Elite*, Roman & Littlefield Publishers, 2006.
- Mike Savage and Karel Williams. 2008. "[Elites: Remembered in Capitalism and Forgotten by Social Sciences](#)." *The Sociological Review* 56, no. 1\_suppl (May): 1–24.
- Domhoff, G. William. "[Who Rules America? Interlocking Directorates in the Corporate Community](#)."

**September 22:** Shadow Elites and Structures of Corruption: The United States and Beyond; Critiques of the Anti-Corruption Industry

Required Reading:

- Janine R. Wedel, *Shadow Elite*, New York, NY: Basic Books, 2009, Chapters 1, 2, and 5 or 6.

OR:

- Janine R. Wedel, *Unaccountable: How the Establishment Corrupted Our Finances, Freedom, and Politics and Created an Outsider Class*, New York, NY: Pegasus (updated paperback & kindle editions 2016), Chapter 1 and one of the following: Chapter 6, 7, 8, or 9.
- Sarah Chayes, *On Corruption in America: And What Is at Stake*, 2020 (one copy is available at Mason Square Library).
- Michael Johnston, *Syndromes of Corruption: Wealth, Power and Democracy*, 2005, Chapters 5-7.

Shadow Elites and Structures of Corruption: The United States and Beyond; Critiques of the Anti-Corruption Industry - Continued

Recommended:

- Michael Johnston, *Corruption Contention and Reform: The Power of Deep Democratization*, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Chayes, Sarah. *Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.
- Janine R. Wedel, "[Corruption as the Through Line: Overlooked Establishment Corruption, Why Trumpism is No Accident, and Why Corruption Has No End](#)," *Corruption and Illiberal Politics in the Trump Era*, Donna M. Goldstein and Kristen Drybread, eds., New York: Routledge, 2022.
- Janine R. Wedel. 2012. "[Rethinking Corruption in an Age of Ambiguity](#)." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 8: 453-498.
- Ledeneva, Alena V., and Claudia Baez-Camargo, "[Where Does Informality Stop and Corruption Begin? Informal Governance and the Public/Private Crossover in Mexico, Russia and Tanzania](#)," *The Slavonic and East European Review*, vol. 95, no. 1, Jan. 2017.
- Ledeneva, Alena V., *Can Russia Modernise? Sistema, Power Networks and Informal Governance*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Enrique Desmond Arias, "Understanding Criminal Networks, Political Order, and Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean," *Ungoverned Spaces: Alternatives to State Authority in an Era of Softened Sovereignty*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010.
- Rocco d'Este, Mirko Draca and Christian Fons-Rosen. "[Shadow Lobbyists](#)," *Working Paper no. 139*, October 23, 2020.

Further Resources:

- Rasma Karklins, *The System Made Me Do It: Corruption in Post-Communist Societies*, Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2005.
- Evy Joly, *Justice Under Siege: One Woman's Battle Against a European Oil Giant*, London: Arcadia Books, 2006.

Shadow Elites and Structures of Corruption: The United States and Beyond; Critiques of the Anti-Corruption Industry - Continued

Further Resources: Institutional Corruption:

- Lessig, Lawrence, Foreword: "Institutional Corruption Defined," *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics: A Journal of the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 2013, vol. 41, no. 3, pp. 553-555.
- Lawrence Lessig, 2019. Institutional Corruption. Harvard University: Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics website
- Lawrence Lessig, 2015. *Republic Lost: The Corruption of Equality and the Steps to End it*, New York, NY: Hachette Book Group (1 copy is available at Fenwick Library).
- Dennis F. Thompson, "[Theories of Institutional Corruption](#)," *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 21, no.1, May 2018, pp. 495-512
- Wedel, Janine R., 'Shadow Elites: Beyond Institutional Corruption Theory and Ill-Conceived Anticorruption Regimes And Toward a New Research Agenda', in Andreas Bågenholm and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Quality of*



Government, Oxford Handbooks (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 14 July 2021), accessed 23 Jan. 2023.

- C-SPAN2 BookTV, New America Foundation-New York: "[Curbing Corruption](#)" with Lawrence Lessig, Zephyr Teachout, and Janine R. Wedel, Dec. 27, 2014. [Listen to the interview at the New America NYC site.](#)

**September 29:** Oligarchic Capitalism vs. Civil Society: What can we learn from Ukraine?

**October 6:** Guest Speaker: Julia Pfaff; Big Data, Data Analytics, Network Analysis and Corruption

Social Network Analysis

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Stanley-Becker, Isaac, "[Corporate boards, consulting, speaking fees: How U.S. generals thrived after Afghanistan: Stanley A. McChrystal exemplifies how ex-generals sell their battlefield experience in other arenas, from corporations to covid-19 response](#), *Washington Post*, Sept. 4, 2021.

Social Network Analysis – Continued

Required Case Study:

- [From Prof. Kristian Lasslett: See this article, pp.34-51 \(ignore the methods section and go to the case study\).](#)  
The study uses network analysis and timelines methods to break down a crew of grifters, led by an Australian-Icelandic businessman. He got into PNG and developed networks of influence drawing on kinship relations, so important in PNG. Then began the gifts, leading to his most epic grabbing of land, worth about US\$100m, in the capitol. To do this he had to displace residents and convert a national park into a commercial/residential zone. So it was about corruption and urban governance. [Prof. Lasslett writes that he got to debate the developer live on Australian radio.](#) Students can see how grifters try to deflect criticism. [Also the community made their music video on the demolition they Experience.](#)

Further Resources:

- Jeffrey R. Smith, "Generals No Longer Retire to Vermont—They Lobby for Contractors in Washington." *Center for Public Integrity*, November 21, 2012.

**October 13: FALL RECESS - NO CLASS**

**October 20:** State/Political/Policy Capture and State Crime Capture

Required Reading/Viewing:

- [The Capture Phenomenon: Unmasking Power](#), Oxfam
- Janine R. Wedel, "[It's 2020. Do You Know Who Your Government Is Serving? America Has Been Conflating Politics and Business for Years—And if We're Not Careful, We Could Go the Way of Post-Soviet Eastern Europe](#)," *Zócalo Public Square*, Dec. 10, 2020.

State/Political/Policy Capture and State Crime Capture - Continued

Choose ONE of the following films:

- [Film: Putin's Palace: History of the World's Largest Bribe](#)
- OR:
- [Film: Don't call him "Dimon":](#)

Choose ONE article from the following list:

- Mark Swilling, [Convenor. Betrayal of the Promise: How South Africa Is Being Stolen](#), State Capacity Research Project, May 2017.
- Madonsela, Sanet, "Critical reflections on state capture in South Africa," *Insight on Africa*, 2019, 11(1), pp. 113-130.
- Lansky, Miriam and Myles-Primakoff, Dylan, "The Rise of Kleptocracy: power and plunder in Putin's Russia." *Journal of democracy*, vol. 29, no. 1, Jan. 2018, pp. 76-85.
- Lasslett, Kristian; Kanji, Fahima; and McGill, Daire, "A Dance with the Cobra: Confronting Grand Corruption in Uzbekistan," 2017, London: International State Crime Initiative.
- Lasslett, Kristian, "Uncovering the Transnational Networks, Organisational Techniques and State-Corporate Ties Behind Grand Corruption: Building an Investigative Methodology," *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 2017, 6(4), pp. 29-54.

Further Resources:

- [Oxford Handbook of Criminology, Chapter 19](#)
- [State Capture Assessment Diagnostics in the Western Balkans 2020: Risks and Policy Options](#), SELDI Policy Brief No. 10, July 2020.
- Alexa S. Dietrich, "Coercive Harmony, Deep Capture and Environmental Justice in Puerto Rico," *Development and Change*, 2011, vol. 42, no. 6, pp. 1441-1463.
- Janine R. Wedel, Nazia Hussain, and Dana Archer Dolan, *Political Rigging A primer on political capture and influence in the 21st century*, Oxfam America, 2017, selected pages
- James Kwak, "Cultural Capture and the Financial Crisis," in *Preventing Regulatory Capture*, Daniel Carpenter and David A. Moss, eds., 2014,

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**October 27:** The Enabling and Reputational Laundering Industries; Foreign Influencing Machines

Required Reading/Viewing:

- Ben Judah and Nate Sibley, *The Enablers: How Western Professionals Import Corruption and Strengthen Authoritarianism*, Kleptocracy Initiative, September 2018,.
- Alexander Cooley, John Heathershaw, J.C. Sharman, "The Rise of Kleptocracy: Laundering Cash, Whitewashing Reputations," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 29, Issue 1, January 2018, pp. 39-53.
- Conley, Heather A., Ruslan Stefanov, Donatienne Ruy, and Martin Vladimirov. [The Kremlin Playbook 2: The enablers](#). Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.
- Weiss, Michael, "[The Kremlin's Malign Influence Inside the Us](#)," 4freerussia, 2021.



- Cooley, Alexander, Tena Prelec, John Heathershaw, and Tom Mayne. "[Reputation Laundering in the University Sector of Open Societies](#)." ned.org, May 2021?
- Film: The Great Hack (Netflix) (Cambridge Analytica)
- ESU, [Stockholm – ESI presentation on corruption in the Council of Europe and the end of Caviar Diplomacy](#), European Stability Institute, 27 September 2017,

The Enabling and Reputational Laundering Industries; Foreign Influencing Machines - Continued

Recommended Reading/Viewing:

- Film: Inside Job
- Conley, Heather A., James Mina, Ruslan Stefanov, and Martin Vladimirov. [The Kremlin Playbook: Understanding Russian Influence in Central and Eastern Europe](#). Rowman & Littlefield, 2016,
- Shin, Francis and Ben Judah, "[Authoritarian kleptocrats are thriving on the West's failures. Can they be stopped?](#)" The Atlantic Council, Jan. 24, 2023.
- Knaus, Gerald, "[The strangest love affair – autocrats and parliamentarians, from Berlin to Strasbourg](#)," European Stability Institute, ESI newsletter 2/2021, 2 April 2021.
- Knaus, Gerald, "Europe and Azerbaijan: The End of Shame," *Journal of Democracy*, July 2015, vol. 26, no. 3.
- Casey Michel, [The United States of Anonymity](#), Kleptocracy Initiative, November 2017.
- Josh Rudolph and Thomas Morley, "Covert Foreign Monday: Financial Loopholes Exploited by Authoritarians to Fund Political Interference in Democracies," Alliance for Securing Democracy, August 2020.
- NED. "[Reputation Laundering and Universities: Implications for Democracy and Freedom of Expression](#)." National Endowment for Democracy, June 29, 2021.
- Ilya Zaslavskiy, [How Non-State Actors Export Kleptocratic Norms to the West](#)

Further Resources on Corruption in Foreign Aid:

- Courtney, Work, Ida Theilade, and Try Thuon (2022) "[Under the canopy of development aid: illegal logging and the shadow state](#)," *The Journal of Peasant Studies*.
- Janine R. Wedel, "[Tainted Transactions: Harvard, the Chubais Clan and Russia's Ruin](#)," *The National Interest*, no. 59, Spring 2000, pp. 23-34,.
- Janine R. Wedel, *Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe*, New York, NY: Palgrave, 2001: Chapter 4.
- Lloyd J. Dumas, Janine R. Wedel, and Greg Callman, *Confronting Corruption, Building Accountability: Lessons from the World of International Development Advising*, New York, NY: Palgrave, 2010: Chapters 1-3 (1 copy is available at Mason Square Library).

**November 3:** Corruption and National Security

Required Reading on Corruption and National Security (Select TWO from the following list):

- Chayes, Sarah, "[Afghanistan's Corruption Was Made in America: How Self-Dealing Elites Failed in Both Countries](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, Sept. 3, 2021.
- Chayes, Sarah, "[The Strategies Are Foreign, but the Corruption Is American: A Response to 'The Rise of Strategic Corruption'](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, Oct. 13, 2020.
- Chayes, Sarah, "[Kleptocracy in America: Corruption Is Reshaping Governments Everywhere](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, Aug. 19, 2017,.

- SIGAR. “Corruption in Conflict: Lessons from the U.S. Experience in Afghanistan.” SIGAR, Sept. 2016.
- SIGIR. “[Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience](#).” usiraq.procon.org, 2009.

**November 10: Remedies and the Role of Legislation**

Required Reading:

- [Foreign Corruption Practices Act overview](#).
- [Magnitsky Act overview](#)
- [Corporate Transparency Act](#).
- Matthew T. Page and Jodi Vittori / Melissa Aten, ed. [Kleptocratic Adaptation Anticipating the Next Stage in the Battle Against Transnational Kleptocracy](#), Washington, DC: International Forum for Democratic NED Studies, National Endowment For Democracy,

Recommended:

- Mueller, Tom, *Crisis and of Conscience: Whistleblowing in an Age of Fraud*, New York: Penguin Publishing Group, 2019.
- Michael Johnston and Scott Fritzen, *The Conundrum of Corruption: Reform for Social Justice* (Routledge Corruption and Anti-Corruption Studies), 2020 (available online through library.gmu.edu).

**November 17: TBA**

**November 24: THANKSGIVING RECESS - NO CLASS**

**December 1: EXAM and Board Mapping Exercise**

**December 8: Final Session Wrap Up: What Have We Learned and How Will We Use It?**

*Student Projects due*

**Some Key Organizations:**

- FACT Coalition: Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency
- Tax Justice Network
- Global Financial Integrity
- International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)
- The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)
- Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC)
- Kleptocracy Initiative (Hudson Institute)
- Shadow World Investigations (formerly Corruption Watch UK)
- Transparency International
- Global Witness
- Oxfam
- Natural Resource Governance Institute
- Global Finance Network
- Transparency International

## **Some Key Databases (to be added to throughout the semester)**

- [Integrity Watch](#)
- [Youcontrol](#)
- [Transparency Index](#)

## **Academic Standards**

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution's goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

As members of the George Mason University community, we are committed to fostering an environment of trust, respect, and scholarly excellence. Our academic standards are the foundation of this commitment, guiding our behavior and interactions within this academic community. The practices for implementing these standards adapt to modern practices, disciplinary contexts, and technological advancements. Our standards are embodied in our courses, policies, and scholarship, and are upheld in the following principles:

- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information in all academic endeavors, including communications, assignments, and examinations.
- **Acknowledgement:** Giving proper credit for all contributions to one's work. This involves the use of accurate citations and references for any ideas, words, or materials created by others in the style appropriate to the discipline. It also includes acknowledging shared authorship in group projects, coauthored pieces, and project reports.
- **Uniqueness of Work:** Ensuring that all submitted work is the result of one's own effort and is original, including free from self-plagiarism. This principle extends to written assignments, code, presentations, exams, and all other forms of academic work.

Violations of these standards—including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating—are taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. [The process for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating violations is outlined in the university's procedures here.](#)

Consequences of violations may include academic sanctions, disciplinary actions, and other measures necessary to uphold the integrity of our academic community.

The principles outlined in these academic standards reflect our collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of honesty, acknowledgement, and uniqueness of work. By adhering to these principles, we ensure the continued excellence and integrity of George Mason University's academic community.

**Student responsibility:** Students are responsible for understanding how these general expectations regarding academic standards apply to each course, assignment, or exam they participate in; students should ask their instructor for clarification on any aspect that is not clear to them.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University

Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit the [Disability Services website](#) for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu). Phone: (703) 993-2474.

**Student responsibility:** Students are responsible for registering with Disability Services and communicating about their approved accommodations with their instructor in advance of any relevant class meeting, assignment, or exam.

### **FERPA and Use of GMU Email Addresses for Course Communication**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the disclosure of education records for eligible students and is an essential aspect of any course. **Students must use their GMU email account** to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. Instructors will not respond to messages sent from or send messages regarding course content to a non-GMU email address.

**Student responsibility:** Students are responsible for checking their GMU email regularly for course-related information, and/or ensuring that GMU email messages are forwarded to an account they do check.

### **Title IX Resources and Required Reporting**

As a part of George Mason University's commitment to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Accordingly, **all non-confidential employees, including your faculty member, have a legal requirement to report to the Title IX Coordinator, all relevant details obtained directly or indirectly about any incident of Prohibited Conduct** (such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender-based stalking, dating/domestic violence). Upon notifying the Title IX Coordinator of possible Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will assess the report and determine if outreach is required. If outreach is required, the individual the report is about (the "Complainant") will receive a communication, likely in the form of an email, offering that person the option to meet with a representative of the Title IX office.

For more information about non-confidential employees, resources, and Prohibited Conduct, please see University Policy 1202: [Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence](#). Questions regarding Title IX can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator via email to [TitleIX@gmu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@gmu.edu), by phone at 703-993-8730, or in person on the Fairfax campus in Aquia 373.

**Student opportunity:** If you prefer to speak to someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential employees in [Student Support & Advocacy \(SSAC\)](#), Counseling and [Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#), [Student Health Services \(SHS\)](#), and/or the [Office of the University Ombudsperson](#).