



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

1SK169 Korruption i politik och förvaltning, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Political corruption, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject

Political Science

Level

First cycle

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2020-04-29.

Revised 2025-10-29. Revision of the module set.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- outline and define key concepts and identify important methodological issues in the study of corruption,
- describe potential causes of corruption and its impact on contemporary democracies,
- critically discuss ethics and its importance in public administration,
- identify a relevant problem concerning corruption in public administration and

independently analyse this.

Content

During the last 30 years issues of corruption and ethics in public administration have received increased attention by governments, media, and non-governmental organisations. The access to quantitative measurements of corruption has also encouraged more research. The interest in the subject has also increased from almost only focusing on developing countries to also including established democracies in the West. The course will focus on empirical and theoretical studies of corruption and ethics and explore issues such as: How can corruption be effectively assessed and measured? What is the impact of corruption on public administration, political legitimacy and stability? How can ethical approaches in public administration be maintained. How effective are dominant approaches to ensure ethical conduct and avoid corruption and abuse of power?

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, supervision and seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

Grade A represents the highest grade, and the subsequent grades follow in descending order, where grade E is the lowest grade that qualifies as a Pass. A grade of F means that the student's performance is assessed as Fail. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is permitted to supplement his/her examination. In order to receive a grade of E in the course, all the objectives must be fulfilled. Students who have not passed (i.e. received the grade of F) the scheduled examination, will be offered a new examination shortly after the scheduled examination date.

In order to receive a grade of E in the course, the student must pass all the examinations and all the objectives must be fulfilled. To be awarded a final grade of D-A in the course, it is required that the grading criteria are fulfilled based on a weighted assessment of the grades for all the examination assignments.

Examination of the course takes place by means of one written assignment, one seminar and one written exam.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-Cycle and Second-Cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:
1SK149 7.5 credits, 1SK185 7.5 credits, and 1SK131 7.5 credits.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required readings

Bergh, Andreas, Erlingsson, Gissur Ó., Sjölin, Mats, & Öhrvall, Richard (latest edition). *A Clean House? Studies of Corruption in Sweden*. Lund: Nordic Academic Press, 160 p.

Fisman, Raymond och Miriam A Golden (latest edition). *Corruption: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press, 316 p.

Heywood, Paul (latest edition). *Routledge handbook of political corruption*, Abingdon: Routledge, 366 p. (eBook, available via the university library)

Johnston, Michael (latest edition). *Corruption, contention and reform: the power of deep democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 296 p.

Additional scientific journal articles, approximately 100 pages.