

PSC 336

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

**MONEY AND**

**POLITICS**

**INTRODUCTION**

# QUESTIONS IN THIS CLASS

- **What are we talking about?**
  - **What is corruption? How do we measure it? What are basic patterns of corruption around the world?**

# QUESTIONS IN THIS CLASS

- **Who is involved in money and politics, why, and how?**
- **What different ways are there for money to enter politics? Why do people pay money? Why do bureaucrats and politicians accept it? How are voters affected by money in politics?**

# QUESTIONS IN THIS CLASS

- **What determines money and politics?**
  - **Why do some countries have more money in politics and others less? What is the effect of culture? What is the effect of institutions? What impact do voters have?**

# QUESTIONS IN THIS CLASS

- **What are the consequences of money in politics?**
  - **What consequences does money in politics and corruption have? How bad is it for citizens, businesses, the economy, and politicians themselves?**

# QUESTIONS IN THIS CLASS

- **How can we reduce money in politics? Should we?**
- **Which potential solutions exist to curb money in politics? How effective are they? Is it worth it trying to get money out of politics? And under what conditions can efforts be successful?**

# OVERALL GOALS

- **Learn about causes and consequences of money in politics around the world**
- **Learn about how to study the subject in a scientific way**
  - **Precisely specify what we are talking about**
  - **Create theories about how money works in politics**
  - **Devise ways to measure money in politics**
  - **Test the theories in a rigorous manner**

# CLASS WEBSITE

- <http://www.simonweschle.com/psc336>
- The website has the continuously updated class schedule
- Lists all readings, reading questions, assignments etc.
- Please check the page **EVERY WEEK**
- Same information also available on Blackboard, but less convenient



# STUDENT HOURS

- **Tuesdays 1:00-3:00**
  - **Can chose in person (332 Eggers) or Zoom (info on syllabus)**
  - **Or by appointment (email me)**
  - **Your chance to talk to me about course material, college in general, or just to chat**

# TALK TO ME

- **If you experience any hardship that interferes with your academics, *please* get in touch with me**
  - **I'll work with you. I can almost always help in some way (or I know someone who can help)**
  - **You do not have to reveal personal details to me**

# TALK TO ME

- ***Please* talk to me as early as possible about any issues or questions**
  - **There's always something that can be done**
  - **Talk to me as early as possible, harder to do something after the fact**
  - **If you ask yourself whether you should talk to me, talk to me**

# TEACHING ASSISTANT

- **Ayşenur Değer**
  - **PhD students, Political Science**
  - **Main duties: Grading**
  - **Student Hours: Thursday 11:30-1:00**

# COURSE MATERIALS



- Textbook: Ray Fisman and Miriam A. Golden. 2017. *Corruption. What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press.
- Online access through the library

# COURSE MATERIALS

- **One Composition Notebook**



- **All other Readings on Blackboard**

# GRADES

- **40%: 2 Exams**
- **35%: Country Research Report**
- **25%: Class Journal and Class Participation**

# EXAMS

- **Tentatively on March 7 and April 25**
- **Will post list of essay questions about one week in advance**
- **Will randomly chose some of the questions for exam**
- **You can bring one page of notes (front and back) to exam**



# RESEARCH REPORT

- **Imagine you work for a think tank as a political consultant. Your task is to write a research report on *one way* (e.g. bureaucratic corruption, campaign contributions, revolving door) in which money plays a role in politics in a country of your choice.**
  - **March 21: Draft of first part**
  - **Last week of class: Brief presentation (recorded video)**
  - **May 3: Full report**

# CLASS JOURNAL

- **Answer questions about each reading (before class)**
- **Composition notebook**
- **Randomly collected and assessed**
  - **0: You are not in class.**
  - **1: You are in class, but your journal has no or almost no entries since the last collection**
  - **2: Your journal has entries since the last collection, but is only partially complete.**
  - **3: Your journal has complete entries since the last collection, showing that you have done the readings.**

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Will be regular part of our lives
- We'll use it to support and enhance our work
- But: You need a basic understanding of the task at hand
  - Otherwise you won't know how to ask the right questions to the AI
  - You won't know when it tells you things that are wrong
- College (and this class) is all about getting a basic understanding of things
  - Using AI to do your assignments is convenient in the short run, but to your detriment in long run

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- **We read lots of assignments**
- **We know what an AI answer sounds like**
- **We can also compare what you write in your at-home work to what you write in your exams**
- **I reserve the right to call you into my office to quiz you about the content of your at-home work**

# SYLLABUS

- **For all kinds of details, read the syllabus**
  - **Campus resources, religious observances, accommodations for students with disabilities, academic integrity**

# WEDNESDAY

- **Next Tuesday: What is corruption?**
  - **Fisman/Golden, Ch. 2**
  - **Questions for reading journal are posted (Blackboard and Class Website)**