

## SYLLABUS

### Masterseminar „Corruption and Religion in Central and Eastern Europe“

Winter semester 2023/24

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Adnan Efendic (University of Sarajevo)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau / Prof. Björn Hansen / Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger  
(all University of Regensburg)

### Concept

Corruption must be considered to be closely related with and influenced by cultural norms, attitudes and beliefs of the local and regional context. It is no surprise, therefore, that anti-corruption measures are often found to compete with some of those norms, due to a lack of commonly shared assumptions about the correct and adequate behaviours in business and society.

This leads us to particularly question the cultural patterns that are derived from some of the oldest institutions in those societies, namely the religious communities. What about their perceptions of corruption? Do they parallel or rather counter the perceptions held in the secularized society? Does the imprinting of societies positively or negatively influence anti-corruption measures and how can the religious factors be fruitfully considered and integrated here?

To explore this topic, we take a focus on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). This will be done for several reasons: Firstly, the orthodox church as the largest religious community in the region can be best observed here. Secondly, several countries provide some interesting side-by-side situations of different religions (e.g., Bosnia with its orthodox, Islamic and catholic communities). Thirdly, most CEE countries usually rank worse on international corruption indices which could be related to the religious background that considerably differs from the situation in other European regions.

The seminar provides us with the opportunity to explore different questions and issues related to corruption and religion from different disciplinary perspectives, such as historical and cultural studies, economics, business and management, or linguistics.

The number of participants is capped at 18.

## The structure of the course

Time/Place	Activity
August 7 – October 16, 2023 <b>First come – first serve</b>  December 13, 2023	<b>Enrollment</b> (We will accept a maximum of 5 students per faculty as well as 4 exchange students)  Deadline to withdraw/de-register from the seminar
Students of Business Administration	<b>Via FLEXNOW</b>
Erasmus/exchange students (business administration)	by email to: <a href="mailto:sekretariat.fo@ur.de">sekretariat.fo@ur.de</a> using the <a href="#">accreditation form</a>
Students of Slavic Studies	by email to: <a href="mailto:Sekretariat.Hansen@ur.de">Sekretariat.Hansen@ur.de</a>
Students of Southeast and East European History	by email to: <a href="mailto:Sekretariat.Suedost@geschichte.uni-regensburg.de">Sekretariat.Suedost@geschichte.uni-regensburg.de</a>
October 18, 2023 10-12, W112	Introduction – Formalities, Organization (Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger)
October 25, 2023 10-12, W112	Meeting 1: The historical view I (Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau)
November 8, 2023 10-12, W112	Meeting 2: The historical view II (Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau)
<del>November 15, 2023</del> <b>cancelled</b>	<del>Meeting 3: The linguistic view</del> (Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen)
<b>November 22, 2023</b> <b>10-12, W112</b>	Meeting 3: The linguistic view (Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen)
November 29, 2023 10-12, W112	Meeting 5: The management view (Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger)
<b>December 06, 2023</b> <b>10-12, W112</b>	Meeting 6: The economic view (Prof. Dr. Adnan Efendic – via Zoom)
<b>December 10, 2023</b>	Deadline to submit a topic for the seminar paper (short exposé) to the preferred supervisor
January, 19, 2024 8am -4 pm, VG 2.35	Team presentations (Prof. Dr. Adnan Efendic / Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger)
To be announced (between January 8 and 31, 2024)	Reception hours with Prof. Dr. Adnan Efendic
February 29, 2024, 12 am	Deadline to hand in a written seminar paper (by email to <a href="mailto:thomas.steger@wiwi.uni-regensburg.de">thomas.steger@wiwi.uni-regensburg.de</a> )

## Assessment

The assessment for the seminar will take the form of a group project. You will be assigned to a small team of 2-3 students and together you will have to deliver various insights on a specific topic to demonstrate your understanding of the topic in conceptual and theoretical terms. The assessment comprises two components:

1. Each group will give a **formal presentation** on its topic to the whole class. The presentation should last no longer than 20 minutes and will be followed by about 20 minutes of questions and discussion. This part makes up 25% of the final seminar mark.
2. Each group has to submit a **team paper**. The paper should have a maximum of 8,000 words (not including references or appendices) and will be written as a collective piece of work. This part makes up 75% of the final seminar mark.

A success pass in the seminar is worth 6 Credits (or 14 Credits for students of the Criminology program respectively).

## Questions?

All further questions and requests can be addressed by email to [thomas.steger@ur.de](mailto:thomas.steger@ur.de).