

HI2D2-30 Corruption in Britain and its Empire 1600-1850

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Mark Knights

Credit value

30

Module duration

21 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module investigates the concept, practice and representation of corruption in Britain and its empire during the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It considers corruption in theoretical and interdisciplinary terms (using research from political science, law, anthropology, economics, literature and art history) and explores a series of different types of corruption (political, economic, sexual and moral, linguistic, imperial) as well as the language and visual depiction of corruption. The module considers anti-corruption (proposals, reforms, campaigns) alongside corruption, investigating the motives behind campaigns and why solutions took so long to achieve. There will normally be a field trip to Blenheim Palace, if entrance fees are not prohibitive.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 30 CATS undergraduate second-year option module will introduce students to the concept and practice of corruption, and 'anti-corruption', in the British state during a key stage in its evolution. Students will be encouraged to use some key databases of primary material (Early

English Books Online, Eighteenth Century Collections Online, Burney Collection of 17th-century and 18th-century Newspapers, Nineteenth Century Pamphlets, Nineteenth Century Periodicals) and also draw on visual material wherever possible, including the British Museum's extensive online database of prints and satires. Discussions will also be informed by contemporary issues, relating pre-modern corruption to current affairs.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1.

1. Introduction: Approaches to the study of corruption

Types of Corruption

2. Religious conceptions of corruption
3. Judicial Corruption
4. Social corruption
5. Political Corruption and the Politics of Corruption

Imperial Corruption

1. Empire I: The Early East India Company and Siam
2. Empire 2: The Caribbean
3. Empire 3: Fiscal-Military State
4. Empire 4: India in the era of Clive and Hastings
5. Empire 4: India after Hastings

Term 2

10. Fiscal-Military State

The State and the Evolution of 'Public Office'

- 11: State 1: Office-holding
12. State 3: The Sale of Office
13. State 4: Local Officeholding
14. State 5: The state and economics

Hunting Corruption

15. Sexual and moral corruption
16. Breach and Abuse of Trust
17. Accountability
18. The Press and Corruption

Term 3

Turning Points?

19. When was the 'Age of Reform'?
20. How much was reformed and how had it been achieved?
21. Revision session

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the methodological problems associated with defining and examining corruption.
- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a broad range of primary source material, including online databases.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing multidisciplinary scholarship.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Other activity	2 hours (1%)
Private study	256 hours (85%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Other activity description

Revision seminar

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Seminar contribution	10%		No
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
1500 word essay source commentary	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
2000 word essay	30%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

4500 Word Project	50%	Yes (extension)
Project based on primary and secondary sources		

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

- written feedback via Tabula
- student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list F for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy