

## PHM1139H - DIAGNOSING CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR AND ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES AND TOOLS

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**please note class is now on Tuesdays form 2- 4.**

**Background.** Corruption understood as, “the misuse of entrusted power for private gain”, is considered to be one of the biggest barriers for development and growth.<sup>1</sup> Corruption is without borders; it can be found in any country, in different forms, levels, and types of organizations and institutions. Corruption impedes economic growth, political stability and government legitimacy, jeopardizes the allocation of resources to sectors crucial for development, and encourages other types of illegal activities<sup>2</sup>. Each year, an estimated US\$ 5.3 trillion is spent worldwide on providing health services; yet as much as 6% or US\$300 billion is lost to corruption and errors.<sup>3</sup> Corruption negatively impacts public health budgets, the price of health services and medicines, the quality of care and medical products, and threatens a country’s ability to provide universal health coverage by increasing the price of health care.<sup>4</sup> Corruption, in short, undermines public trust in their governments and the services they provide and also undermines the morale of health professionals as well as for patients to make use of health services.

**Course Overview:** This graduate course will introduce interested and curious students to the core concepts associated with corruption generally and corruption and the health sector specifically, with a particular focus on the pharmaceutical sector. We will start the seminar with a broad discussion about corruption, what it is, how to define it and examine how it is measured. We will then examine how international organizations are dealing with corruption in their development projects. The course will then move on to specific modules dealing with core topics related to corruption and the health sector. The course will consist of lectures, class discussions and group work through case studies. Research papers and presentations will provide students with the opportunity to probe an issue of interest.