SYLLABUS

WWS 504 (Fall, 2005)
Policy Issues and Analysis of Nonprofits, NGOs, and Philanthropy
Professor: Stanley N. Katz

Description/Objectives

This course examines policy issues at international, national and local levels. It attempts to provide groundwork approaches to non nonprofits, NGOs, and philanthropy. The emphasis is on how philanthropy, nonprofit, and NGO sectors operate, their niche alongside private and public sectors, revenue sources, impact on society, and converse effects of society and its institutions; the policy making process. We will explore the impact of reliance on government or overseas support for Third World NGOs; faith-based service provisions: accountability and transparency; advocacy; and government regulations.

The course will meet once a week in a seminar format. It is a discussion course, and I look for active participation by each student. There will be a reading assignment, not too long, for each week, but I expect close analysis of texts and I look for each student to complete the assignment before class. The basic course requirement is to write a research paper on a topic to be determined in discussion with me. The alternative of an examination will be available for those who prefer, but my strong preference is for one or more research papers.

We will make active use of the Blackboard website prepared for this course.

Books required for purchase are available at Micawber’s Bookstore. You are also required to buy the coursepack at the WWS Business Office in Robertson Hall. These will comprise everything assigned for reading in the schedule below. An extensive reserve collection of the listed recommended books will be available on reserve in the Woodrow Wilson School’s Stokes Library in Wallace Hall.

Books for Purchase:


Steven J. Ott, The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2001). Abbreviated SJO. (Sometimes the author is J. Steven Ott, sometimes Steven J. Ott…)

Websites relevant to Nonprofits, NGOs and Philanthropy:

**General sites:**

- Idealist.org: [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org) (clearing house for nonprofit ideas and news)
- NonprofitHub.com: [www.nonprofithub.com](http://www.nonprofithub.com) (very large list of links, broken down by category; some broken, some frivolous)
- Urban Institute: [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org) (general social and economic policy research institute, with section devoted to nonprofits and philanthropy)
- Guidestar: [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) (basic data about nonprofits organization- including organization’s tax Form 990 images; free registration required)
- Independent Sector: [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org) (broad-based coalition dedicated to improving America’s third sector)
- Harvest Today: [http://www.harvesttoday.org](http://www.harvesttoday.org) (nonprofit and philanthropy news and information service)

**On Philanthropy:**

- EPhilanthropyFoundation.org: [www.ephilanthropy.org](http://www.ephilanthropy.org) (organization dedicated to promoting online philanthropy; includes ezine)
- Ashoka: [www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org) (organization supporting social entrepreneurship, with section dedicated to nonprofits and philanthropy)
- Philanthropy News Digest: [http://fdncenter.org/pnd](http://fdncenter.org/pnd) (Foundation Center’s online newspaper)
- American Association of Fundraising Counsel: [http://www.aafrc.org](http://www.aafrc.org) (Organization dedicated to professionalizing and ensuring ethical behavior amongst philanthropies)
- The Philanthropic Initiative: [http://www.tpi.org](http://www.tpi.org) (TPI offers strategic services to philanthropists)
- American Institute of Philanthropy: [http://www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org) (general purpose philanthropy website, including ratings of organizations)
- Nonprofit Management Education Center: [http://www.uwex.edu/li/learner/sites.htm](http://www.uwex.edu/li/learner/sites.htm) (large list of links to a variety of third sector related sites)

**On foundations:**

- Foundation Center: [www.fdncenter.org](http://www.fdncenter.org) (database on foundations, for both students and practitioners of philanthropy)
- Foundation Center’s international philanthropy page: [http://fdncenter.org/research/npr_links/npr08_int.html](http://fdncenter.org/research/npr_links/npr08_int.html)
- Council on Foundations: [www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org) (membership organization of foundations providing information, expertise and advice to foundations and general public)
- Minnesota Council on Foundations: [http://www.mcf.org](http://www.mcf.org) (includes a variety of non-Minnesota links, especially under “Links of Interest”)

**On NGOs, US and international:**

- Duke University Non-governmental Organizations Research Guide:
http://docs.lib.duke.edu/igo/guides/ngo (includes very comprehensive list of NGOs, including international ones, with weblinks)

- Boardsource: http://www.boardsource.org (dedicated to NGO development, especially of boards and their members)
- Global Policy Forum: http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/index.htm (GPF monitors UN policy making; this page relates to the UN and NGOs)

September 21 - Session 1: Introduction and course overview.

Required reading:


1. The United States

September 28 - Session 2: The third sector in the United States

Required reading:


- Lester M. Salamon, “The Resilient Sector: The State of Nonprofit America,” in LMS. 63 pages


Recommended reading:


October 5 - Session 3: Theories of the third sector; the role and impact of the third sector

Required reading:

▪ William A. Diaz, “For Whom and For What? The Contributions of the Nonprofit Sector,” in LMS. 19 pages

▪ David Horton Smith, “The Impact of the Voluntary Sector on Society,” in SJO. 8 pages


▪ Helmut K. Anheier, “Theoretical Approaches” and “Resourcing the Nonprofit Sector” in HKA. 55 pages


Recommended reading:


**October 12 - Session 4: Foundations**

Required reading:


Recommended reading:


**October 19 - Session 5: The third sector and government**

**Required reading:**


- Steven J. Ott, “Perspectives on Organizational Governance: Some Effects on Government-Nonprofit Relations,” in SJO. 10 pages

- Judith Saidel, “Resource Interdependence: The Relationship between State Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations,” in SJO. 10 pages

- Kirsten Gronbjerg and Lester M. Salamon, “Devolution, Marketization and the Changing Shape of Government-Nonprofit Relations,” in LMS. 23 pages


**Recommended reading:**


**October 26 -Session 6: The third sector and the market**

Required reading:


- Dennis R. Young and Lester M. Salamon, “Commercialism, Social Ventures and For-Profit Competition,” in LMS. 22 pages


Recommended reading:


**November 2 – Fall Break**

**November 9 - Session 7: The third sector and religion; faith based initiatives**

Required reading:


- Mark Chaves, “Religious Congregations,” in LMS. 23 pages


Recommended reading:


**November 16 -Session 8: Accountability, transparency, advocacy**

**Required reading:**

- Helmut K. Anheier, “Stakeholders, Governance and Accountability,” in HKA. 16 pages


- Evelyn Brody, “Accountability, Effectiveness, and Public Perceptions,” in LMS. 26 pages

**Recommended reading:**


2. Beyond the United States

November 23 - Session 9: Introduction

Required reading:


- Sheppard Foreman and Abby Stoddard, “International Assistance,” in LMS. 34 pages


Recommended Reading:


Session 9: Globalization and the third sector; international NGOs; the US third sector on the world stage

Required reading:


Recommended reading:


November 30 - Session 10: The third sector in the third world

Required reading:


**Recommended reading:**


### 3. Conclusion: Thinking about making policy for the third sector

**December 7 - Session 11: Policy making**

**Required reading:**

- Helmut Anheier, “Policy Issues and Developments,” in HKA. 20 pages


Recommended reading:


14 December – Session 12 - TBA