SYLLABUS

WWS 504 (Spring, 2015)

Nonprofits, NGOs, and Philanthropy
Wednesday: 1:30-4:20 p.m., Robertson Hall #014

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Description/Objectives

This course examines policy issues at international, national and local levels. It attempts to provide groundwork approaches to 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 Labyrinth Bookstore. The other assigned readings are available on e-reserves.

Books for Purchase:


Websites relevant to Nonprofits, NGOs and Philanthropy:

General sites:

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

On Philanthropy:

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

On foundations:

- Foundation Center: 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
- Council on Foundations: 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 (includes a variety of non-Minnesota links, especially under “Links of Interest”)
On NGOs, US and international:
Center for Global Prosperity: www.global-prosperity.org (new Hudson Institute/Brady Center site on global philanthropy and remittances)
Interaction: www.interaction.org (alliance of 160 of the largest U.S. based NGOs working on international relief and development)
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)

February 4 - Session 1: Introduction and course overview.

Required reading:


“What is the Nonprofit Sector?” in OD, pp. 10-11

“The Nonprofit Sector in Brief” in OD pp. 12-16

▪ Rob Reich, “Toward a Political Theory of Philanthropy”

1. The United States

February 11- Session 2: The third sector in the United States

Required reading:

The Filer Commission Report (1975) in OD, pp.63-70

Lester M. Salamon, “The Resilient Sector: The State of Nonprofit America,” in LMS, pp.3-86
David Horton Smith, “The Impact of the Voluntary Sector on Society” in OD, pp.71-79

Recommended reading:


**February 18 - Session 3: Theories of the third sector; the role and impact of the third sector**

Required reading:


“Government Failure Theory,” in OD, pp. 151-153

“Contract Failure Theory,” in OD, pp. 154-157

Eleanor Brown and David Martin, “Individual Giving and Volunteering” in LMS, pp.495-517

**Recommended reading:**


**February 25- Session 4: Foundations**

**Required reading:**


**Recommended reading:**


**Recommended reading:**


**March 4 - Session 5: The third sector and government**

**Required reading:**


Recommended reading:


**March 11 -Session 6: The third sector and the market**

Required reading:


Dennis R. Young, Lester M. Salamon, and Mary Clark Grinsfelder, “Devolution, Marketization, and the Changing Shape of Government-Nonprofit Relations” in LMS, pp.549-586


Recommended reading:


**March 18 – Fall Break**

**March 25 - Session 7: The third sector and religion; faith based initiatives**

Required reading:

- Mark Chaves, “Religious Congregations,” in LMS, 362-393


Recommended reading:


**April 1 -Session 8: Accountability, transparency, advocacy**

Visitors: Terrence Meck, the Pallette Foundation; Dr. Anu Gupta, consultant on international grantmaking

**Required reading:**

- Kevin P. Kearns, “Accountability in the Nonprofit Sector” in LMS, pp.587-615


“Tax-Exempt Organization” in OD pp.121-124

Recommended reading:


### 2. Beyond the United States

**April 8 - Session 9: Introduction**

Required reading:

- Abby Stoddard, “International Assistance,” in LMS, pp.329-361

- Lester M. Salamon, “Government-Nonprofit Relations from an International Perspective,” in OD, pp.367-384

Michael Edwards, “Civil Society as Associational Life,” in OD, pp. 402-414

**Recommended Reading:**


**April 15 - Session 10: Globalization and the third sector; international NGOs; the US third sector on the world stage**
Required reading:


- Joan Spero, “The Global Role of U.S. Foundations” (Foundation Center, 2010)


Recommended reading:


April 22 - Session 11: The third sector in the third world

Required reading:


Recommended reading:


Michael Edwards and Alan Fowler, eds., The Earthscan Reader on NGO Management (London: Earthscan, 2002)


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

April 29 - Session 12: Policy making

Required reading:

- Helmut K. Anheier, Lisa Carlson and Jeremy Kendall, “Third Sector Policy at the Crossroads: Continuity and Change in the World of Nonprofit Organizations” in Helmut K Anheier and


Recommended reading:

