Course Syllabus

Pmap 8210 Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector

Fall Semester 2015
Tuesdays 7:15-9:45pm
305 Langdale Hall

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Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic parameters of the nonprofit sector including definition, boundaries, and roles. It will investigate the purpose and scope of the nonprofit sector in the United States and explore basic aspects of nonprofit governance, management, and resource acquisition. Students will also examine theories that strive to explain the existence and shape of the nonprofit sector and, where applicable, underlie approaches to nonprofit management. Students will have the opportunity to put this knowledge into context by completing a volunteer assignment in a nonprofit organization of their choice. Overall, the class is designed to build students’ awareness of the role and importance of the nonprofit sector and better prepare them to be nonprofit and public sector leaders.

Note that this syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have an understanding of:
- The definition, scope, and role of the nonprofit sector.
- Theories that help explain the emergence and character of the nonprofit sector.
- The blurring of nonprofit sector boundaries for resource acquisition.
- Governance, management, and ethical issues in nonprofit organizations.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance at every class session is required. Any absences without prior approval will be reflected in the final attendance grade, except in extenuating circumstances. The same policy applies to arriving late or leaving early. Absences will not be considered an adequate excuse for not completing assignments or staying up to date with assignments. Active participation in class discussions includes coming to class prepared to discuss the week’s reading assignment. It also includes respect for other students in the class in all interactions.

Students wishing to withdraw from the course must officially withdraw prior to the mid-point date of the semester as established by the University in order to avoid being given a grade of WF.
Course Assignments and Exams:

*News Article:* Report to the class on a current news event involving a nonprofit organization.

*Nonprofit Subsector Discussions:* With other students, lead a class discussion on the main features and characteristics of a particular nonprofit subsector. PowerPoint presentations are acceptable.

*Volunteer Experience and Paper:* To put course discussions into context, volunteer for a nonprofit organization of your choice for two or more hours a week and write a term paper on the nonprofit subsector context for the organization, why it is organized in nonprofit form, what its mission was initially and now, how well its activities align with that mission, and its main challenges as well as other issues. A reduction of one grade level will be taken for each day the paper is late (Example: A to A-).

*Volunteer Mini-Presentations:* On the last day of class, be prepared to briefly discuss the highlights of and any insights from your volunteer experience with the rest of the class. No formal PowerPoint presentation is required.

*Exams:* The midterm and final exams will be open-book, essay take-home exams due on the days indicated in the course schedule. A reduction of one grade level will be taken for each day the midterm or final exam is late (Example: A to A-).

Course Evaluation and Grading:

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- News Article: 10%
- Subsector Discussion: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Term Paper: 25%

This course uses plus-minus grading. Grades will be assigned as follows: A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=87-89; B=83-86; B-=80-82; C+=77-79; C=73-76; C-=70-72; D=60-69; and F=0-59.

Policy on Academic Honesty:

Students are reminded of the University Policy on Academic Honesty, found in section 409 of the *Faculty Handbook* [http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/fhb.html]. **Use of uncited material copied directly from any source, including the Internet, will result in a significant grade reduction, most likely a failing grade on the assignment.** Repeat offenses are grounds for failure of the course.

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed *Accommodation Plan* and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.
Required Texts:

The following textbooks are required and can be purchased on-line or at the GSU Bookstore:


Recommended Supplementary Texts:


Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Aug 25: *Introduction to the Course*  
(Student subsector groups organized)

Sep 1: *Definitions, Purposes, and Scope of the Nonprofit Sector*  
Readings: Worth, chapter 2; Ott and Dicke, chapters 1 and 3  
Skim: Ott and Dicke, chapter 2

Sep 8: Guest Speaker, Colleen Perry  
AYSPS Office of Career Services  
(Subsector Group Presentation Preparation – please draw on readings found in Salamon 2012, chapters 2-5, 8-9 [Brightspace] that relate to your subsector)

Sep 15: *The Contribution of the Nonprofit Sector: Student Nonprofit Subsector Presentations*  
Ott and Dicke, chapter 6

Unit 1: Theories of the Nonprofit Sector

Sep 22: *Historical Roots and Overview of Theories Explaining the Nonprofit Sector*
Readings: Robins (2006) [Brightspace]; Ott and Dicke, chapter 4; Worth, chapter 3

Sep 29: Political and Economic Theories: Demand for the Services of Nonprofit Organizations
Readings: Ott and Dicke, chapters 10-12, 14

Oct 6: Community and Civil Society Theories: Supply of Nonprofit Services and Resources
Readings: Ott and Dicke, chapters 17-20
Midterm Exam posted/handed out in class

Unit 2: Growing Sector Resources through Boundary Spanning

Oct 13: Relationships with Business
Readings: Worth, chapter 12 pp. 302-309; Ott and Dicke, chapter 26; Austin and Seitanidi (2012) [Brightspace]
Midterm Exam due by email to jkerlin@gsu.edu by 11:59pm

Oct 20: Relationships with Government
Readings: Worth, chapter 13; Ott and Dicke, chapter 8, 13, 25

Oct 27: Private Giving and Volunteering; Nonprofit Ethics
Readings: Ott and Dicke, chapters 5, 21, 23, 24; Worth, chapter 9; Salamon 2012, chapter 13 [Brightspace]; Grobman, chapters 2-3

Unit 3: Nonprofit Management Issues

Nov 3: Nonprofit Governance and Leadership
Readings: Worth, chapters 4 and 5; Eadie (2009) [Brightspace]; Grobman, chapter 4

Nov 10: Nonprofit Accountability
Readings: Worth, chapter 6; Salamon 2012, chapter 16 [Brightspace]; Ott and Dicke, 2012, chapter 27 [Brightspace]; Grobman, chapters 5 and 6

Nov 17: Nonprofit Advocacy and Lobbying
Readings: Worth, chapter 15; Salamon 2012, chapter 10 [Brightspace]; Grobman, chapter 7
Guest Speaker: Karim Hanafy – to be confirmed

Nov 24: No Class - Thanksgiving Break

Dec 1: Volunteer Mini-Presentations
Volunteer Term Paper Due in class
Final Exam passed out in class

Dec 8: Take-Home Final Exam Due by 11:59pm