

POL339      NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS      Dr. Mitzi Mahoney  
Spring 2008      MWF 1:00-1:50      AB1 302

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 8:00-10:00am, 12:00-1:00pm, by appointment

Course Description: The nonprofit sector of society is referred to as the “third sector”, with government and business as the first two sectors. In this course we describe and analyze the role of the “third sector” in politics, policy making, and policy implementation. In the first section of the course, we discuss the history and evolution of the nonprofit sector and describe its characteristics. We will also discuss the philosophical foundations of the nonprofit sector. In the second section of the course we will discuss the role of nonprofit organizations in political systems. This includes a discussion of their role as agenda setters, formulators, and implementers of public policy. It will also include a discussion of governments’ efforts to regulate and control nonprofits. In the third section of the course we will discuss the intersections between nonprofits, business, and government and their impact on politics and policy making. In the fourth section of the course we explore internal functioning of nonprofits and its implications for politics and policy making.

Course Objectives: The objectives for students include:

- Building a knowledge base regarding Nonprofit Organizations
- Learning fundamental principles, theories, approaches in the study of Nonprofit Organizations
- Developing skills useful for professionals in the Nonprofits organizations

Course Readings:

Elizabeth T. Boris and C. Eugene Steuerle, editors. NONPROFITS AND GOVERNMENT: COLLABORATION AND CONFLICT. Washington, D.C., The Urban Institute Press, 2006.

Readings posted on Blackboard. I will post additional readings on Blackboard. Check often for new readings. These will come from nonprofits’ websites, scholarly journals, government organizations, newspapers, magazines, corporate websites, etc.

Course Assignments:

Exams: There will be two exams. They will include identification, short answer, and essay questions. Each is worth 25% of the final grade.

Projects: Students must complete two projects. A detailed explanation of each project is provided on Blackboard. Each constitutes 25% of the final grade.

Course Evaluation:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Project 1:	25%
Project 2:	25%

Students earning 90-100% will earn an A, 80-89% will earn a B, 70-79% will earn a C, 60-69% will earn a D, and any grade below 60% will earn an F.

No extra credit will be given. Grades will not be curved. Students should not ask to have their grades raised in order to avoid suspension, loss of scholarship, financial aid, to avoid the wrath of their parents, etc. Grades are not negotiable; begging will not help.

Classroom Policies:

**Make Up Exams:** Make up exams will be given to students who miss an exam because of illness, a death in the family, or an official university activity. You must notify me immediately if you miss an exam. Make up exams will be given at the convenience of the faculty member. Make up exams will consist of essay questions only.

**Attendance:** After three unexcused absences, I reserve the right to deduct one point from the final grade for each additional unexcused absence.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students found cheating on an exam will receive an F for the course. Cheating includes using any unauthorized material, notes, or information to assist in answering test questions as well as obtaining answers to exam questions from others. Again, you will receive an F for the course for this misconduct.

**Classroom Conduct:** Turn off your cell phones. Do not plan to get up in the middle of class and leave. If you find you must leave for any reason, do not re-enter the classroom. Once you leave, even for a brief moment, you may not come back in to class. Do not talk to each other while I am talking. I will ask you to leave if you disrupt the class.

## PROJECT CHOICES

Volunteering: You may volunteer for a nonprofit organization. You must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Secure a volunteer opportunity no later than September 19<sup>th</sup>. I must approve of the placement.
2. Complete the volunteer contract and return by October 3rd.
3. Volunteer a minimum of 20 hours by December 5th.
4. Keep a log of time worked and responsibilities performed
5. Keep a journal about your volunteer experience.
6. Send a thank you note to the nonprofit organization for the opportunity to work with them.
7. Get your intern supervisor to fill out an evaluation form for you.

Training: Complete a training program with a nonprofit organization. You must fulfill the following requirements:

1. The training must require a minimum of 15 hours to complete.
2. I must approve of the training you select.
3. You must provide proof that you successfully completed the training program.
4. Keep a log of the time you spend in training and a description of the work required of you.
5. Keep a journal about your training experience.

Examples of appropriate training programs include the Red Cross training program, Child Advocates training program, Boys/Girls Club training program, a volunteer management training program, fundraising or grant writing instructional programs, a leadership training program, nonprofit financial management training, governing board training, media relations for nonprofits training, and advocate certification programs. These are just a few suggestions. I will post training opportunities on the website as I find them.

Policy Research Project: The policy research project requires that you conduct research about a government policy that impacts nonprofit organizations. The paper requires the following:

1. Select a policy that directly or indirectly affects the functioning of nonprofit organizations. I must approve the topic.
2. In the paper you should describe how the issue got on the government's agenda, how the policy was developed and formulated, the provisions of the policy, how it was implemented, and its impact.
3. The paper should be 10 pages, double spaced, 1 inch margins. It should be properly documented using the MLA style manual.

Examples of topics include the impact of Bush's Faith Based Initiatives, whether welfare reform policies have increased demands on food pantries, government

funding for nonprofits after 9/11, how changes in the tax code affect nonprofits, and a comparison of nonprofits vs. government agencies as service deliverers.

Politics Research Project: The politics research project requires you to conduct research on the political activities of nonprofit organizations. The paper requires the following:

1. Select one or more nonprofit organizations with a political agenda. I must approve of your selection.
2. In the paper you should describe the political values, goals, and strategies of nonprofit organizations. You will analyze the extent to which the nonprofit organization is successful in achieving its political goals.
3. The paper should be 10 pages, double spaced, 1 inch margins. It should be properly documented using the MLA style manual.

Examples include MADD's legislative agenda and its lobbying tactics, how nonprofit organizations use the Internet to mobilize at the grassroots level, the media strategies of nonprofits, nonprofits alliance formation or coalition building strategies, nonprofits' use of the litigation strategy, nonprofits and electioneering, and nonprofits in budget politics.