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Soc/Law/PA/Pol 596f: Theory and Research on the Nonprofit Sector
Spring, 2015
Thursday, 3:30-6:00 PM
Social Science 415

Instructor:

Prof. Joseph Galaskiewicz
Social Science, Room 434
520-621-7084
galaskie@email.arizona.edu
Office hours: Tuesday, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Overview

Course Overview: This course examines the nonprofit sector as a social institution. It focuses primarily on the American nonprofit sector, but we also look at how the sector ‘plays’ in other parts of the world. Different disciplines have looked at the sector from different perspectives. In part one we review how history, law, economics, sociology, political science, and org theory view the sector. The second part of the course reviews theory and research on stakeholders, e.g., government, corporations, members, volunteers, donors, and foundations. The final part of the course looks at international non-governmental organizations.

Requirements: The first course requirement is that you attend every session and do the required readings. You should be able to offer some insights on all the required readings in the course of the class discussion, but you will not be graded on your participation or attendance.

Second, you are required to write four one-page, single spaced critical essays. Each will cover an article; books can count for two. These essays will be graded and count for 60% of your grade (15% each). In these essays you should summarize the content and describe how the readings contribute to the literature, complement each other, and approach issues in a different way. You should also touch upon their shortcomings. You need to select your readings by the second week of class.

Third, you are expected to lead the class discussion on the reading for that week. I would advise you to check with the instructor a few days before the class to go over the format for the class.

Finally, you are required to write a research paper (20 pages including text, references, tables, figures, etc.). It may take the form of a literature review, a research proposal, a case study, or a research note (e.g., analysis of secondary data). The grade on the paper will count for 40% of your grade. You need to have your topic approved by the instructor at the beginning of the semester (one page outlines due February 12th). You will make a brief report (5 minutes) to class on your topic on March 12th or March 19th and present a short summary of your paper (10 minutes) to the class on April 30th. The final paper is also due April 30th, but I will accept incompletes if need be.
Students may take the course pass/fail, but must do all the assignments and receive an overall grade of “B-” or better to receive a passing grade.

Basis for Grading Student Performance: Critical review essays (60%) and research paper (40%).

Readings: The five books (Frumkin, Powell and Steinberg, Wuthnow, Gidron and Hasenfeld, and Salamon) can be purchased from the bookstore or you can go on-line and order them yourself (e.g., half.com or amazon.com). The articles and chapters are on D2L.

Readings (Items WITHOUT an asterisk are required readings for the class)

January 22  Overview of the Sector


Disciplinary Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector

January 29  Historical Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector


February 5  
**Legal Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector**


February 12  
**Political and Public Administration Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector**

Political Perspectives:


Public Administration Perspectives:


February 19 Economic Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector


Organizational Issues

February 26

Institutional Factors


March 5  
Commercialization and Competition


March 12  Social Enterprises


Stakeholder Relations

March 26  Volunteering


April 2  Individual Donors


April 9

Foundation Donors


April 16                Corporate Donors


Global Dimensions

April 23    Comparative Perspectives


April 30    International Non-governmental Organizations
Final Papers Due


