Final Draft (revised 6-23-20)

Soc/Law/PA/Pol 596f: Theory and Research on the Nonprofit Sector
Spring, 2020
Thursday, 3:30-6:00 PM
Social Science 415

Instructor:

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Social Science, Room 434
520-621-7084
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Office hours: Friday, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course:
• Knowledge of Social Institutions
  o Students can differentiate between a nonprofit, for-profit, and government
    organizations based on legal norms
• Knowledge of how to think critically about social issues in contemporary society
  o Students are able to differentiate between performance criteria which are easy to
    measure and quantifiable and those which actually serve the mission of the
    organization
• Knowledge of research methods and primary research evidence
  o Students will be able to make presentations and lead discussions.
  o Students will be able to write a critical literature review in the field of study.
  o Students will be able to conduct research in the fields of study and write up their
    results.

D2L Course Site:
The class has a D2L course site (http://d2l.arizona.edu/). All important information and
announcement on course-related topics as well as course materials will be posted. It is suggested
to turn on the notification function on D2L to your UA official email address to get the
notification of any announcement, changes, and uploads on time. It is your responsibility to
check the site and your UA official email regularly. D2L help page
How to control your D2L notifications:
Click your Personal Menu, located at the top of your D2L My Home screen, and select Notifications.

Course Materials:
We will be reading selected book chapters and journal articles throughout the semester. Book chapters and journal articles will be uploaded on the class D2L space (under “content” and “e-books”). You are responsible for reading all materials with an asterisk next to it.

Requirements & Grading:
First, you are required to write four one-page, single spaced critical essays. Each will cover an article or book chapter. 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.

Second, 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 6th). You will make a brief report (3 minutes) to class on your topic on February 27th or March 5th. The final paper is due May 7th, but I will accept incompletes if need be. Students may take the course pass/fail.

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

Attendance and Class Participation:
Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all class meetings. If you anticipate being absent, are unexpectedly absent, or are unable to participate in class online activities, please contact the instructor as soon as possible prior to the class meeting. To request a disability-related accommodation to this attendance policy, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (520) 621-3268 or drc-info@email.arizona.edu. If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The Dean of Students Office is located in the Robert L. Nugent Building, room 100, or call 520-621-7057.

- The UA’s policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop
- The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable. See http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources-religious-accommodation-policy.
- Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences

**Code of Academic Integrity:**
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor’s express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

**Threatening Behavior Policy:**
The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:**
To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, making phone calls, web surfing). If you choose to use e-textbook in class, please notify your instructors in advance.

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**
At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, https://drc.arizona.edu/) to establish reasonable accommodations.

**UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy:**
The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.
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Notes:
In the case that we need to cancel class, you will be notified in advance (except in the case of an emergency). Information contained in the course syllabus and class schedule, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. All changes will be announced in class and/or on D2L.

Readings items WITH an asterisk are required readings for the class.

Introduction

January 16  Overview of the Sector


Disciplinary Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector

January 23  Historical Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector


Other:


**January 30**

**Legal Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector**


Other:

February 6  Political Theory and the Nonprofit Sector


Other:


February 13  Political Advocacy

6


Other:


February 20

**Economic Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector**


Other:


Organizational Issues

February 27th Accountability


Other:


March 5th Social Enterprises


*Julie Battilana and Mathew Lee. 2014. “Advancing Research on Hybrid Organizing –
Insights from the Study of Social Enterprises.” The Academy of Management Annals, 8(1): 397–441. (Park)


Other:


**Stakeholder Relations**

**March 19th Volunteers**


Other:


March 26 Individual Donors


Other:


April 2  Foundation Donors


Other:


April 9  Corporate Donors (Guest: Julia Smith)


Other:


**April 16th**

**Government Funders**


Other:


Global Dimensions

April 23 Comparative Perspectives


Other:


April 30 International Non-governmental Organizations


Other:


May 7th Papers due