

**Historical and Philosophical Foundations
of the Nonprofit Sector in the United States**
PLSC 544 CRN 26475 Winter 2016

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Classroom: Pray-Harrold 421
Class Days: Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:40 p.m.
Office Hours: By appointment only. Call 313-215-3911 (Fike's cellphone) to set a time.

A. Course Description:

This course provides students with a background in the historical and philosophical foundations of the nonprofit sector in American society. Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course will help students understand the evolution and purpose of the nonprofit sector, its distinctiveness, its structure and extent, its capacities and limitations and its challenges. The course will examine nonprofits and fundraising through the public policy lens.

B. Course Objectives:

1. Students will gain basic knowledge of the historical and philosophical foundations of the nonprofit sector in American society;
2. Students will discover and explore the evolution of the nonprofit sector, its structure and extent, its capacities and limitations, as well as its distinctiveness and the challenges it faces in today's global marketplace;
3. Students will be able to identify and connect the basis for, and the nature of, voluntary organizations in societies past and present, and will be able to demonstrate the evolution of these roles especially during the past half century in the U.S.;
4. Students will examine the extent to which the nonprofit sector can or should provide public goods to society equal in stature with the goods and services provided by government and private enterprise;
5. Students will be able to identify and demonstrate the ways voluntary and nonprofit organizations profoundly affect and enter into the process of making public policy in the U.S. today.

C. Required readings:

- Book: Ott, Steven J. and Dicke, Lisa A., 3rd ed., 2016 *The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector*. Westview Press, ISBN 978-0-8133-4960-2. If this isn't available, take 2nd ed. ISBN 978-0-8133-4491-1.
- Book: Henton, Douglas; Melville, John G., Walesh, Kimberly A. 2003. *Civic Revolutionaries: Igniting the Passion for Change in America's Communities*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers
- Book: Hall, Peter Dobkin, 1992, *Inventing the Nonprofit Sector*, Baltimore; Johns Hopkins University Press Publishers

D. PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE COURSE

1. Cellphones, Pagers, Text Messages

It is expected that students will give every class their full attention. Students may not under any circumstances use cell phones, pagers or text messaging devices during class. It is expected that when students enter the classroom their communication devices will be turned off. Infractions will result in having to deposit communications devices at the start of class into a common receptacle in the instructor's care during each class. We hope this is unnecessary.

2. Attendance:

a. Definition

Attendance has been built into lectures and discussions. In order to count as a "day in attendance," students must not be absent, must not be late to class, nor leave early.

b. Sign-In Sheet:

Each student is expected to sign in on the class attendance sheet, which will be available on a clipboard during the first 10 minutes of each class session. No exceptions. No excuses.

c. Absences:

There are no excused absences.

d. Class Attendance Grading:

Class attendance and participation will constitute 700 points, or 28% of the total grade.

Attendance at each class rates 50 points, Absence = 0. If you don't sign in, you're "not there." No exceptions.

e. Make-Ups: Absences may be "made up" when the student has read an assigned article and has written a three-page (min.) review of the article. Absence on Apr. 19, 2016 remains unexcused.

3. Students must be Ready for Class

Learning is not a spectator sport. For learning to happen in any course, students must take an active role in the process. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn, which requires reading and studying the assigned reading before you come to class. Being prepared for class enables students to construct a knowledge base on which subsequent learning will take place.

Students are required to bring to each class session the text book used for the current reading assignment.

You will be engaging in learning tasks both in class and out of class. This requires students to

- a. use a variety of reasoning strategies to address issues and problems, and
- b. write reflectively about what you are learning, how it relates to what you already know about the content, and how it relates to your life's experiences.

4. Lectures will not be repeated

Students who miss a class must make their own arrangements to obtain notes from other students. Please note that students are responsible for all announcements made, information presented in class, and all handouts. Regular attendance is critical so you don't miss important information.

5. This Course Uses the Canvas Online Learning Facility

All elements of this course are posted on the Canvas online learning facility. On this facility students will find all the ingredients of the course.

Students can access eCollege at the following URL:

<https://canvas.emich.edu/>. Once there, you will need to enter his/her EMU user name and password. In the area named "Courses" you will find "[PLSC 544 - 26475 Foundtns of the Nonprof Sector.](#)"

On left side of the course "home page" there is a Navigation Bar. This home page has every course event listed by modules: all the classes, the article reports, the theme papers, the exams. Each item has its own introductory page describing what is required and giving links to resources necessary to complete that requirement.

6. Grading:

Each student's grade will be based on the following point system.

Item	Units Each	PLSC 604 Students	
	Points	Total	Percent
MID-TERM Exam	300	300	12%
FINAL Exam	300	300	12%
11 Reading Assignments	54.5	600	24%
1 Theme Papers @ 12 pp --OR--	300	300	12% -OR-
2 Article Reports @ 6 pp	150	300	12%
14 Class Attendance	50	700	24%
Quarterly Learning Summaries	100	400	14%
Extra Credit 50 points			
TOTALS		2600	100%

Grades will be calculated as follows:

The number of total points a student earns divided by 2500.

Example: Student earns **2250** points = numerical grade **90**, letter grade = A-.

Example: Student earns **2125** points = numerical grade **85**, letter grade is B.

Grading Scale (all students)

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	0-59 = F

NOTE: The Instructor reserves the right to raise any student's grade based on perception of the student's overall knowledge and understanding of the course material.

7. Two Assessments (Exams):

Two Assessments (exams) will be given during this course. These assessments are not cumulative; but will relate to the content of the preceding section of learning experiences plus the assigned text readings. Assessments will be posted on the eCollege learning facility.

Assessment dates are as follows:

- 1. MIDTERM EXAM runs from 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17 thru 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016.**
- 2. FINAL EXAM runs from 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20 thru 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2016**

8. Make-Ups:

No make-ups are given for Assessments. Once the exam closes it will be permanently closed. No exceptions.

9. Reading Assignments: **The are 11 Reading Assignments** for this course. The reading assignments for each class will be given on the eCollege (EMU online) learning facility.

Upon completion of each reading assignment, students will be asked to answer one or two questions about the assignment content and submit this on Canvas. This will be the basis of the grade for this course component.

10. Theme Paper:

Students have an option of either writing a **12-page Theme Paper**, **or** writing **two 6-page Article Reports**.

The Theme Paper will be due on Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Selecting Your Topic: Before selecting a topic, **please consult with the instructor.**

This can be done by appointment, or you may consult by email.

The instructor's approval MUST BE SECURED before you may proceed.

This paper should be **at least 12 pages in length**.

This theme paper will delve into the available literature on the student's chosen topic.

The paper **MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING 6 ELEMENTS:**

- 1. TITLE PAGE** – bearing the student's name, the course title and number, the paper topic all in the upper right hand corner of the cover sheet, plus the title of the paper written in the center of the cover sheet.
- 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PAGE** – must be just under the Title Page, and will be no more than one page in length, giving a short summary of the following elements:
 - Summary of the topic or theme and why it is important
 - Summary of the logical argument the paper will make – how it will progress through a series of logically arranged steps to reach a conclusion
 - The Conclusion the paper reaches
 - The student's point of view on the outcome of the research process

3. PAGE NUMBERS – all pages MUST be numbered in the lower right hand corner

4. CONCLUSION—at the end of the paper, including student’s own evaluation of the material researched and an evaluation of the outcome that the study accomplished.

5. REFERENCE PAGE – placed at the end of the paper

6. OUTLINE – down to the paragraph level, placed at the end of the paper

NOTE: A paper that does not contain all 6 items will be immediately returned to the student and, if the deadline has been reached, will suffer a **60-point penalty in the grade.**

Further information will be given in class about the sources, subjects, and procedures involved in these papers. Please see the Instructor in the office during office hours for more information and resources on these papers.

Submission of Theme Papers:

These papers are to be submitted ONLY in **Word 2003 or later format (.doc or .docx)**, and are to be submitted as an attachment in an email to jfike2@emich.edu using the general university email.

11. Article Reports:

Students have an **option** of either writing a **12-page Theme Paper**, **or** writing **two 6-page Article Reports**.

The first Article Report will be due on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

The second will be due on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

These article reports are to be a **minimum of 6 pages** in length, and should be a review and evaluation of one of the articles embedded in the eCollege website for this course under the heading of “Supplementary Articles and Resources” section. If a student wishes to write a report on another article that is not listed, the instructor’s permission must be secured in advance.

REQUIRED:

1. Title Page – student’s name, the course title and number, the paper title
2. Page Numbers on every page
3. Executive Summary -- marked with a headline
4. Conclusion -- marked with a headline
3. Reference Page at the end of the paper

12. Quarterly Summaries of Learning:

Students will submit a three-page summary of their learning experience to date to the instructor four times during the semester.

The content of these summaries is to be as follows:

- a. What learning activities have you participated in during this period?
e.g.: reading assignments, lectures, your own reading

- b. What have you learned about the Nonprofit Sector so far in this period?
e.g.: subjects, concepts, methods, principles, theories, models, etc.
- c. What were your knowledge and assumptions about these matters before?
- d. What are your new assumptions as a result of your learning?
- e. What are the main questions you still have about the concepts we've studied?
- g. What are your learning plans for the next study period?
e.g. reading, lectures, field assignments, papers written, other work, etc.
- h. What is your present grade score in the course, and what is your score goal?

Due Dates: #1 on Feb. 2, 2016 #2 on Mar. 8 #3 on March 29 #4 on April 19

13. Extra Credit:

Students may earn extra credit points to add to their total grade score as follows:

1. Read an article and submit a written 3-page report on its content and its relevance to our course of study. Students may choose from among those posted on the eCollege site in the "Supplementary Articles and Resources" section for the course, or a student may choose another article with the Instructor's approval. Each article and report will be credited with 75 extra credit points.
2. Write a 6-page "mini" theme paper on a topic of student's choice (with foreknowledge and approval of the Instructor). Subjects are any of the class lecture topics. Such papers will be credited with 100 extra credit points.

14. Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Services for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the relevant section of the Code at http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/academic_integrity.html.

15. CLASS TOPICS and READING ASSIGNMENTS

All class topics and reading assignments are posted on eCollege (EMUonline)