

**Historical and Philosophical Foundations  
of the Nonprofit Sector in the United States**  
PLSC 336      CRN 12893      Fall 2013

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Classroom: 215 Porter  
Class Days: Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.  
Office Hours: By appointment only. Call 313-215-3911 (Fike's cellphone) to schedule a time.

**A. Course Description:**

This course provides students with a grounding 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 foundational knowledge of the historical and philosophical foundations of the nonprofit sector in American society;
2. Students will discover and understand 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., 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011 or 2012. ***The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector***. Westview Press

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 and Participation Grading:

Class attendance and participation will constitute 840 points, or 32% of the total grade.

Class attendance and participation points will be compiled and evaluated following every class session.

**i. Attendance:** Attendance in class rates 15 points, Absence = 0. **If you don't sign in, you're "not there."** No exceptions.

**ii. Participation:** Class participation points will be accumulated at a rate of up to 15 points per class period, depending on the extent to which a student participates actively in the learning tasks for each class session (see "Students Must be Ready for Class" below).

**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 Dec. 12 is 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  
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- 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.

Your performance on the **in-class learning tasks** will be evaluated as part of your Class Attendance and Participation Grade (see "Participation" above). The 15 points of your Participation Grade will be assigned as follows:

- a. 20 points will be assigned if you are strongly engaged with high-quality performance  
That's right... you get an extra 5 points for high-quality performance in class
- b. 15 points will be assigned if your work and participation is satisfactory
- c. 8 points will be assigned for unsatisfactory performance
- d. 0 points will be assigned for no participation at all

#### 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 eCollege (EMUonline) Learning Facility

Many elements of this course are posted on the eCollege (a.k.a. EMUonline) learning facility. On this facility students will find all the ingredients of the course.

Students can access eCollege at the following URL:

<https://secure.ecollege.com/emu/>

Enter your User Name and Password

Click on "Fall 2013 Web Enhancement," you will find PLSC 336.

On your "home page" there is a Navigation Bar that has in it every course event: all the classes, the article reports, the theme papers, the exams. Each item has its own introductory page that tells you what is required and provides 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 336 Students	
		Points	Percent
MID-TERM Exam	300	300	11%
FINAL Exam	300	300	12%
10 Reading Assignments	60	600	23%
1 Theme Papers @ 12 pp min.	260	260	10%
2 Article Reports @ 5 pp	150	300	12%
28 Class Attendance & Participation	30	840	32%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2600</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grades will be calculated as follows:**

The number of total points a student earns divided by 2600.

**Example:** Student earns **2340** points = numerical grade **90**, letter grade = A-.

**Example:** Student earns **2210** 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 1:00 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25 thru 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Oct 26, 2013**
- 2. FINAL EXAM runs 1:00 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13 thru 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013**

**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 10 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 to eCollege. This will be the basis of the grade for this course component

**10. Theme Paper:**

There will be **1 Theme Paper due in this course.**

**The Theme Paper will be due on Tuesday, November 19, 2013**

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 5 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:

- a. Summary of the topic or theme and why it is important
- b. Summary of the logical argument the paper will make – how it will progress through a series of logically arranged steps to reach a conclusion
- c. The Conclusion the paper reaches
- d. 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 attached to an eCollege assignment, or in an email using the general emich.edu email.

## **11. Article Reports:**

There will be **2 Article Reports due in this course.**

**The first will be due on October 1.**

**The second will be due on December 3.**

These article reports are to be a **minimum of 5 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
3. Reference Page at the end of the paper

## **12. 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 5-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 50 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 50 extra credit points.

## **13. 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](http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/academic_integrity.html).

## **14. CLASS TOPICS and READING ASSIGNMENTS**

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