

Community Nonprofit Organizations

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FCS 5450 & 6450
Tu/Th 12:25-1:45
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What is the role of community nonprofit organizations in our society? In what ways do nonprofit organizations function as “vehicles” for citizen participation? Are nonprofit organizations “manifestations of community?” This course offers a broad intellectual foundation and applied approach to the guiding theories and philosophy of nonprofit practice and community development. By examining different models of community-based nonprofits, students will explore relevant issues of public service, funding, evaluation, theories of change, public policy, social capital, and civic engagement.

Through a combination of literature, discussions, lectures, guest speakers, and independent study, the class will review the history and theory of community nonprofit organizations and explore contemporary challenges. In this inquiry-based course, students will be asked to draw upon their own experience and knowledge of community issues and engage in an in-depth analysis of a selected community nonprofit.

The purpose of the course will be to provide:

- a) an introduction to the critical issues facing nonprofit organizations
- b) an overview of contemporary theories of community
- c) applied experience evaluating a community nonprofit organization

Course evaluation/requirements

Final paper portfolio 45%
Class participation 15%
Writing assignments 30%
Quizzes 10 %

Participation

It is critical that you come to class on time and prepared to discuss the readings, to raise questions related to your concerns, and to add your insights on the topics raised based on your experiences. The intention is to create an atmosphere of collegial discussion and constructive criticism in which everyone feels free to share his or her ideas and perspectives. Participation also includes your involvement on the course website. Attendance will be taken periodically--participation is not possible if you are not present.

Final Project

For the final term paper, students will develop a critical evaluation of a community nonprofit organization or program (10-15 pages for 5450 students; 15-20 pages for 6450 students). The paper will be expected to be in-depth & to integrate materials and concepts from the course texts and lectures.

Written Assignments

In addition to the final paper, students will be expected to complete shorter written assignments. All written assignments need to be handed in on time (lateness will affect your grade) and only hard copies of papers will be accepted.

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes on course readings (see calendar).

Course texts

Ott, J. S. (2001) The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Putnam, R.D. & Feldstein, L.M. with D. Cohen (2003) Better Together: Restoring the American Community. New York: Simon Schuster.

E-reserve

All other readings are available via WebCT, e-reserve, and in a drawer at the FCS Department.

WebCT

The course will employ WebCT software to link to relevant articles and websites, to share information about newsworthy events and articles, and to facilitate discussions outside of class. I will assume that you have received information that I post to the website and/or to the email address listed for you on WebCT. If you are not already familiar with WebCT, you can learn about it at: <http://webct.utah.edu>.

ADA Statement

Students who may need disability-related accommodations should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible. For assistance in obtaining written documentation of disabilities and considering accommodation options, please contact the Center for Disability Services in 162 Union Building (581-5020). <http://www.sa.utah.edu/ds/>.

Add/Drop

Last day to drop class : September 2, 2005. Last day to add class : September 6, 2005

6450 Graduate students, please make an appointment with me by September 7th so we can discuss how the course requirements are pertinent to your specific area.

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Final Project Milestones (counts towards written assignments)

September 8th: Identify organization (1 page):

- ◆ Why did you choose this organization. Why impt. to you?

September 15th: Preliminary descriptive analysis of community

Describe the community your organizations serves (2-3 pages)

- ◆ geographic boundaries of the community
- ◆ general history of the community
- ◆ who lives here? demographics: race/ethnicity/gender, age, economic standing, education levels (see census factfinder for general demographic info:
http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)
- ◆ significant issues of concern to the community (that you notice/document so far)

September 29th: Descriptive report on organization

- ◆ Do background research on organization.
 - procure organizational materials (annual report/programmatic materials, review website, get news-clippings etc..)
- ◆ Overview of organization (1-2 pages)
 - annual budget, # of staff, location, founded when, what type of organization is it? main purpose? programs? funders? etc...

October 11th: Critical community analysis (2-3 pages)

- ◆ Define the community theoretically relating to concepts from class readings (weeks 1-4) including community of interests, geographical communities, scale of community, social capital, community capacity.
- ◆ Who is not part of this community?
- ◆ Challenges/opportunities in serving/working with the community

October 18th: Identify & analyze the social/environmental/economic issue (s) your organization/program addresses. (2-3 pages)

- ◆ Discuss/develop an argument as to why this issue is important to this particular community. To this end you need to identify data to support your argument including news articles, background literature, qualitative and quantitative data (course readings week 8).
- ◆ Locate this issue within the larger social/economic/political context.
- ◆ How does your organization address this issue? Refer to mission statement.

November 1st: Bring in observation notes

- ◆ Observe organization program (or develop a program and observe activity related to it)

November 8th: Theory of change

- ◆ Theory of change sketch/narrative (course readings week 9)

November 29th First draft of paper due * December 12th Final paper portfolio due.

Final Project

The final paper will provide students with an opportunity to engage in an applied study of a community nonprofit organization.

Students: You may elect to either a) do an analysis of a community nonprofit organization or program of your choice or b) you may develop a proposal for a community nonprofit organization/program based on a particular issue.

Students may work independently or in teams of two.

- 1. Identify organization.**
- 2. Critical community analysis.**
- 3. Overview of organization.**
- 4. Identify & analyze the social/environmental/economic issue.**
- 5. Critical analysis of organization program.**
- 6. Conclusion**
- 7. Bibliography**

Your in-class presentation will count towards your final grade.

Final project portfolio should include:

10 -15 page type-written analysis; your first draft (with my feedback); copies of related written assignments; any other relevant materials; and a reflection letter on your process.

* **6450:** Graduate students, it is expected your paper will also include a review of relevant literature. As such your final paper will most likely run between 15-20 + pages.

Course readings

The following schedule is flexible with respect to timing of topics. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class or on Web CT.

**Graduate students are expected to do all recommended readings.*

Week 1 Introduction

Th. August 25

Overview of course, syllabus, requirements

Week 2 Defining the community

Homan, M.S. (1999) Knowing your community Promoting Community Change: Making it Happen in the Real World; pgs 107-118. **E-Reserve**

Rubin, H.J. & Rubin, I.S. "Understanding Community" Community Organizing & Development. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon., Pgs. 97-99. **E-Reserve**

Gandhi, A. (1998) Lessons from Sevagram Ashram. In Hesselbein, F., Goldsmith, M. Beckhard, R. & Schubert, R.F. (eds.) The Community of the Future. San Francisco: Jossey Bass Publishers; pgs. 83-96. **E-Reserve**

Rheingold, H. (1998) Virtual Communities. In Hesselbein, F., Goldsmith, M. Beckhard, R. & Schubert, R.F. (eds.) The Community of the Future. San Francisco: Joseey Bass Publishers; pgs 115-122. **E-Reserve**

Putnam & Feldstein, Chapter 6, Saddleback Church

Tu. Aug 30

Thu Sept 1

Week 3 Defining the Community

Putnam, R.D. (2000). Thinking about social change in America. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon & Schuster; pgs 15-28. **E-Reserve**

Vergara, C. J. (1995). The new American ghetto. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Selections pgs: 66-73. **E-Reserve**

Low, S. (2003) Searching for Community. Behind the gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of happiness in fortress America. New York: Routledge; pgs 53-72. **E-Reserve**

Alicea, M. (2001). Cuando nosotros viviamos...: stories of displacement and settlement in Puerto Rican Chicago. Centro Journal,13 (2),167-195 **E-Reserve**
or go to website: <http://centropr.org/journal/out-of-print%20downloads/Vol.XIII%20No.%202%20Fall%202001/Alicea,Cuando.pdf>

Tu Sept 6

Th Sept 8

***identify organization**

Week 4 Building capacity & community development

Putnam & Feldstein: Chapter 1, Valley Interfaith.

Putnam & Feldstein, chapter 5, Tupelo

Perkins, D.D., Crim, B., Silberman, P. & Brown, B.B. (2004). Community development as a response to community-level adversity: Ecological theory and research and strengths-based policy. In K. Maton, C. Schellenbach, B. Leadbeater & A. Solarz (Eds.) Investing in children, youth, families and communities: Strengths-based research and policy Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; pp. 321-340. **E-Reserve**

Chaskin, R.J.; Brown, P., Ventkatesh, S., and Vidal, A. (2001) Building Community Capacity. New York: Aldine de Gruyter; pgs. 7-10 & 61-65 **E-Reserve**

recommended

Cosco, N. & Moore, R. (2002) Our Life is Like that! In Chawla, L. (Ed.) Growing up in an urbanizing world. London: Earthscan. **E-Reserve**

Tu Sept 13

Th Sept 15

*** preliminary descriptive analysis of the community your organization serves.**

* if you haven't already, get started with background organizational research.

Week 5 The development of the nonprofit sector

Putnam, R. (2000) Lessons of history: The gilded age and the progressive era. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon & Schuster; pgs 367-401. **E-Reserve**

Ott : Chapter 9, Hall, P, D. "Inventing the Nonprofit sector"

Ott: Intro to Part 4, The rationale for tax exemption, pgs. 143-147.

Ott: Chapter 13, Salamon, L. "What is the nonprofit and why do we have it?"

recommended

Saegert, S., Thompson, J.P, & Warren, M.R. (eds.) (2001) Social capital and poor communities. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Excerpts: pgs 7-18. **E-Reserve**

Tu Sept 20

* **quiz**

Th Sept 22

Week 6 Public service and the nonprofit sector

Ott: Intro to the Nonprofit Sector, pgs. 1-7.

Ott: Chapter 2, Salamon, L. The anatomy of America's nonprofit sector.

Ott: Chapter 17, Lohmann, R.A. "And Lettuce is Nonanimal"

Wolf, T. (1999) Managing a Nonprofit Organization in the 21st Century. New York: Simon & Schuster. *Selections: "Consequences of a public service mission" pgs.: 22-35 & "The Board" pgs. 45-59.* **E-Reserve**

Rubin & Rubin (2001) Community Organizing & Development. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. *Selections: "Building capacity in an empowered organization," pgs, 189-191 & "A prelude to organizational administration" pgs. 198-201.* **E-Reserve**

Tu Sept 27

***Guest speaker: Diane Warsoff/ Utah Nonprofits Association www.utahnonprofits.org/**

Th Sept 29

* **Hand in descriptive report on organization.**

Week 7 Nonprofit organizations & community change

Ott : Social & Community Theories, part 7 intro, pgs. 233-8.

Ott: Chapter 20, Berger & Neuhaus. To empower the people.

Ott: Chapter 21, Smith & Lipsky. Non profit organizations and community.

recommended

Ogilvie, R. (2003) The mediating role of the church shelters. Voluntarism, Community Life, and the American Ethic. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. pg 94-146. **E-Reserve**

Tu Oct 4

Th Oct 6
no class –fall break

Week 8 Analyzing community issues

Homan, M.S. (1999) Knowing your community Promoting Community Change: Making it Happen in the Real World. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company. *Selections: "Assessing communities unmet needs" 118-133 & "Issues: Building the Organized Effort" pgs. 276-82. E-Reserve*

Kretzmann, J. & McKnight, J. P. (1996) Assets-based Community Development, National Civic Review, Winter96, Vol. 85, Issue 4. **E-Reserve** or you can get through E-journals.

Arnstein, Sherry R. (1969) A Ladder of Citizen Participation. JAIP, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 1969, pp. 216-224. **E-Reserve**

Community tool box:

Analyzing Community Problems http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/sub_section_main_1017.htm

Assessing Community Needs and Resources: check out sections on needs assessments & concern surveys http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/chapter_1003.htm

Recommended

Minkler, M. & T. Hancock. (2003). Community-driven asset identification and issue selection. In M. Minkler & N. Wallerstein, eds. *Community-Based Participatory Research for Health*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, Chapter 7. **E-Reserve**

Tu Oct 11
* **Critical community analysis**

Th Oct 13
***Rebecca Chavez-Houck guest speaker, www.la-familia.org**

Week 9 Serving the community

Theory of Change (selections)
<http://www.theoryofchange.org/index.html>

Blind men and the elephant online:
<http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/download/makingassessmentwork/>

The Community Tool Box Criteria for Choosing Promising Practices and Community Interventions
http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/sub_section_main_1152.htm

Tu Oct 18
* **Identify/analyze issue your organization is addressing.**

Th Oct 20

Week 10 Case Studies: Community-based & Grassroots organizations

Watch film: "Holding Ground" on reserve in Marriott MultiMedia Center HT177.B6 H64 1996

Putnam & Feldstein, chapter 4, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

Putnam & Feldstein, chapter 12, Portland

Rios-Moore, I., Arenas, E., Contreras, J., Jiang, N., Threatts, T, Allen, S. & Cahill, C. (2004). Makes Me Mad: Stereotypes of young urban womyn of color. New York: Center for Human Environments, Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York.
Download PDF from www.fed-up-honeys.org/ourstudy

Recommended

Wolpert, J. & Seley, J.E. with Motta-Moss, A. (2004) Nonprofit services in New York City's Neighborhoods: An analysis of Access, Responsiveness and Coverage. New York: Community Studies of New York. **E-Reserve**

Tu Oct 25

***Guest speaker: Tim Funk/ Crossroads, www.crossroads-u-c.org**

Th Oct 27

***quiz**

Week 11 Case Studies: Growing community and engaging new audiences

Burch Jr. , W. R. and J. M Grove (1993) People, trees, and participation on the urban frontier. Unasylva 173, vol 44.

http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/u9300e/u9300e00.htm

Maathai, Wangari (December 10, 2004) Nobel Lecture, Oslo.

<http://nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-lecture.html>

Recommended

Checker, Melissa (2001) "Like Nixon coming to China": Finding common ground in a multi-ethnic coalition for environmental justice. Anthropological Quarterly, Jul2001, Vol. 74 Issue 3, p135, 12p. **E-Reserve**

Tu Nov 1

*** Bring in observation notes to class.**

Th Nov 3

Guest speaker: Justina Parsons-Bernstein / TreeUtah, www.treeutah.org

Week 12 Case Studies: Faith-based community initiatives and funding issues

Bush, G. Rallying the armies of compassion. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/reports/faithbased.html> or **E-Reserve**

De Vita, C.J & Wilson, S. Faith Based Initiatives: Sacred Deeds and Secular Dollars. Emerging Issues in Philanthropy. The Urban Institute. **E-Reserve**

Case Study on Faith based organizations to be handed out.

Tu Nov 8

***Theory of Change sketch & narrative due**

Th Nov 10

***Instead of class go to the Rocco C. and Marion S. Siciliano Forum: Considerations on the Status of American Society. Lecture by Howard Rheingold "Smart Mobs: The Impact of Ubiquitous Instant Access on Social Networks and Social Relations" Lecture starts at 12 noon.** In the Katherine W. and Ezekiel R. Dumke, Jr. Auditorium [Utah Museum of Fine Arts](http://www.utahmuseumoffinearts.org)

Week 14 Advocacy & policy

Community Tool Box: Getting an Advocacy Campaign off the ground
http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/sub_section_main_1196.htm

Reid, E. J. (2000) Understanding the Word "Advocacy": Context and Use. Structuring the Inquiry into Advocacy Volume 1. The Urban Institute. Only read pgs. 1-8. **E-Reserve**

Nonprofit Agenda: A Blueprint for Action. National Policy Recommendations from the Nonprofit Sector. National Council of Nonprofit Associations. July 2004. **E-Reserve**

Tu Nov 15

Th Nov 17

***Guest Speaker: Heather Tritten/ Utah Issues** www.utahissues.org

Week 15 Case Studies: Youth & civic participation in community development

Putnam & Feldstein, chapter 7, Do Something

Hart, R (1997). Children's Participation: The theory and practice of involving young citizens in community development and environmental care. New York: UNICEF. Excerpts. **E-Reserve**

Recommended Hung, Yvonne. (2004). "East New York Farms: Youth Participation in Community Development and Urban Agriculture." Children, Youth and Environments 14(1): 20-31.
http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/14_1/articles/article2full.htm

Tu Nov 22

Th Nov 24—**no class thanksgiving break**

Week 15 Challenges for community nonprofits

Putnam & Feldstein, Conclusion, making social capital work.

Aspen Institute (2002) Strengthening the Capacities and Connections of Community Institutions (chapter 4). In Voices from the Field II: Reflections on Comprehensive Community Change. Washington, DC: The Aspen Institute. **E-Reserve**

Recommended Ott: Chapter 35, McCormack. Nonprofits at the Brink.

Tu Nov 29

***1st draft due.**

Th Dec 1

***presentations**

Week 16 Presentations continued

Tu Dec 6

***presentations**

Th Dec 8 —last class

***presentations**

***Final Project Portfolio due Monday December 12th by noon in my office.**