

POLS 3339 – Nonprofit Organizations in Politics and Policy
Dr. Mitzi Mahoney **Political Science Department**

CRN: 20971 **Online Course** **3 Credit Hours** **Spring 2018**
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Huntsville Campus Office Hours: MW 7:30am-8:00am, 10:00am-11:30am
TTh 7:30am-8:00am, 9:30am-11:00am
By arrangement for in-person or phone appointments at other times

Technical Support: Online - www.blackboard.com
Phone – 936-294-2780 and Toll-free 877-759-2232

Course Description: The nonprofit sector of society is referred to as the “third sector”, with government and business as the first two sectors. In this course we describe and analyze the role of the “third sector” in politics, policy making, and policy implementation. In the first section of the course, we will discuss the characteristics of nonprofit organizations, their place in society, and their evolution. In the second section of the course we will discuss the relationship between governments and nonprofit organizations. In the third section we will analyze nonprofits’ roles in the policy making process. In the fourth section of the course we will discuss their impact on politics and policy making.

Course Objectives:

- building a knowledge base regarding the role and influence of nonprofit organizations in politics and policy making**
- learning fundamental principles, theories, approaches that advance our understanding of nonprofit organizations in politics and policy making**
- developing skills useful for professionals in nonprofit organizations**

Course Readings:

All course reading and viewing materials will be posted on Blackboard. These will include scholarly journal articles, news reports, websites, government documents, videos, interviews, as well as other sources. There is no textbook to buy.

Course Assignments:

- Discussion Boards: Students are required to participate in discussion boards 3 times during the semester. This entails first posting your answer and then responding to others’ post as directed in the assignment. Each is worth 3.3% of the course grade.**
- Weekly Reading Quizzes: For each of 15 weeks you will have a Readings Quiz. It will consist of 10-20 multiple choice questions. You will have 2 hours to complete the quiz.**

The quiz grade average will be calculated using the 13 highest of your quiz grades. Each of these is worth 3.1% of the course grade. .

-Skill Development Project: The goal of this project is to develop a skill that is useful for working in a nonprofit. It could include an activity such as training, volunteering, or writing a policy brief on a relevant issue. I must approve your proposed skill development project. The details of the project are posted on Blackboard. This is worth 20% of the course grade.

-Nonprofit Politics Research Project: The goal of this project is to analyze the political activities of NP organizations. You will write a paper about 2 nonprofits engaging in political activity on the same policy issue. The details of the project are posted on Blackboard. This is worth 30% of the course grade.

Course Evaluation:

Assignment	Number	% of Course Grade Each	% of Course Grade
Discussion Boards	3	3.3% each	10%
Weekly Quizzes	15	3.1% each for 13 highest quiz scores	40%
Case Study	1	30%	30%
Skill Development	1	20%	20%
Total		100%	100%

Course Policies:

Assignments: Unless otherwise noted all assignments will be due no later than 6:00am (that is 6:00 in the morning) on Monday mornings. Late assignments will be penalized. The assignment instructions will include the penalty for each assignment. Formatting and submission instructions will be outlined in the assignment and posted on Blackboard.

Working Independently: The work you submit for your assignments should be produced independently and without collaboration unless clearly specified in the assignment. This is extremely important and I take this very seriously. Do not consult with others preparing the assignments. I consider it cheating for you to work together on an assignment. This includes using the same sources, submitting assignments with very similar or the exact same answers, sharing answers on the quizzes, etc. The penalty for cheating is an F for the course, not just for the assignment.

Plagiarism: **DON'T PLAGIARIZE.** It is **IMPERATIVE** that you do not plagiarize. To familiarize yourself with the definition and types of plagiarism consult the Plagiarism

Subject Reference Guide on the library's website at <http://shsulibraryguides.org/MLA>. Plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of 0. Assignment instructions include more information about plagiarism.

University policies regarding The Americans with Disabilities Act, Religious Holidays, Instructor Evaluation, and the Classroom Rules of Conduct will be observed. These policies can be found at www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

Additional Information about course logistics are posted on Blackboard in "How This Course Works" and the Project and Paper Instruction Guides.

*Dr. Mahoney reserves the right to alter the syllabus and course outline. She will provide notice of any changes.

Course Outline	
Week*	Topic*
Week 1:	Introduction to Nonprofits in Politics and Policy
Week 2:	Major Elements of Nonprofits
Week 3:	Nonprofits in American Political Culture
Week 4:	Nonprofits and Government: Part I
Week 5:	Nonprofits and Government: Part II
Week 6:	Nonprofits in the Policy Process Overview
Week 7:	Nonprofits and Agenda Setting Part 1
Week 8:	Nonprofits and Agenda Setting Part 1
Week 9:	Nonprofits and Policy Development Part 1
Week 10:	Nonprofits and Policy Development Part 2
Week 11:	Nonprofits and Advocacy Part 1
Week 12:	Nonprofits and Advocacy Part 2
Week 13:	Nonprofits and Implementation
Week 14:	Nonprofits and Policy Evaluation
Week 15:	Political Impact of Nonprofits
Week 16:	Finals Week