Course Description

This course will examine the role of philanthropy and volunteerism in the US and beyond. We will begin by exploring what it means to live in a society where individuals voluntarily give of their time and money to others. This includes examining the motivations behind philanthropic and charitable giving, and investigating how governments regulate such giving in society—both at the organizational and individual level.

In this course, student learning will be facilitated through: text and journal article readings, lectures and student presentations, case studies, and other relevant course assignments. The readings are a combination of conceptual pieces drawn from research in philanthropy and volunteerism, and applied pieces on nonprofit management.

Please note: Due to the nature of the subject material as well as the size of the class, this is a very hands-on and participatory course. Everyone’s participation is required to make it work! There will be several opportunities for you to work in groups and discuss ideas amongst your peers. In many instances, I will serve more of a facilitator role than lecturer. If you experience difficulty speaking up in class or in group settings, please see me early in the semester so that we can find ways to help you participate.
Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students who have fully participated and read all course material should have:

1. An understanding of the core concepts and theories of philanthropy and voluntary action, and their application to contemporary practice

2. Appreciation of the diversity of forms of philanthropy and their development over time and in different cultures, religions and regions

3. A critical appraisal of the benefits and limitations of philanthropy and volunteerism
   Knowledge of the skills needed to conduct a basic strategic plan for a public or nonprofit organization.

In addition to course material, we will concentrate on three other essential skills for those working (or, planning to work) in public or nonprofit organizations: **teamwork, oral presentation skills**, and **written presentation skills**.

Textbook and Course Readings

There is one textbook required for this course:

- TBD

Additional required reading material(s) will be indicated in the Course Outline and in the Course Schedule (below). All required reading material (with the exception of the course textbook reading material) is available on the course Blackboard site. **Please note: This is a reading intensive course.**

Textbook and Course Readings

There is one textbook required for this course:

Draft Course Outline

In this course we will cover the following topic areas:

- An Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector
- The History of Volunteerism and Philanthropy
• The Economics of Volunteerism and Philanthropy
• The Psychology of Volunteerism and Philanthropic Action
• Philanthropy and Volunteerism in Higher Education
• Global perspectives on volunteerism and philanthropy