

Syllabus – SESP351

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April 1 / Week 1:

Welcome

Purpose of Giving, History of Philanthropy

How Does Public Policy (including tax policy) Influence Giving Decisions?

The Evolution of Charity as Practice, Charities as Organizations

April 8 / Week 2:

Reading: Excerpts from Charity and Philanthropy for Dummies; Stories of Giving

Discussion of Traditions of Giving

Case Studies: Failed Philanthropy (The Poetry Foundation; Zuckerberg-Chan Newark Gift)

Strategies for Giving; Discussion of Scale and Impact

April 15 / Week 3:

Reading: Zizek's First as Tragedy Then as Farce

Tax Day Discussion!

Tax Planning and Tax Policy's Effect on Philanthropy

Why is Harvard Rich and Oxford Poor?

Discussion of Inter Vivos, Testamentary, and Other Gifts; Discussion of Foundations

April 22 / Week 4:

Reading: Harvard Law School Negotiation Labs Exercise (pre-read)

Finding Compromise: How To Do Good In Groups

Group Negotiation Exercise (multi-party negotiation and its challenges)

Debrief from Negotiation Exercise

April 29 / Week 5:

Midterm Exam

May 6 / Week 6:

Discussion of Midterm Exam

Group Discussion of Impact in Context of Stray Cat Problem

ASPCA vs. PAWS vs. Catcade: You Decide

Create Groups for Final Project

Discuss Major Interest Areas (Karl offers introductions to

May 13 / Week 7:

Reading: HBS Case on Acumen Fund; HBS Case on Samasource

Research: The Impact Engine (local impact fund)

Discussion of Social Impact Metrics

Discussion of Impact Investing and Non-Philanthropic Theories of Change

Group work on refining theory of change and focus for Week 10 presentations.

May 20 / Week 8:

Readings: TBD Cases (Relevant to Areas Students Choose as Areas of Interest)

Cristina's Visit to Class

Discussion of Impact Measurement Ex Ante vs. Ex Post

Review of Interview and Diligence Methodologies

Discussion of Cases Assigned

Group work on refining giving plan and focus for Week 10 presentations.

May 27 (Memorial Day) / Week 9:

Students expected to work on campus on their presentations for Week 10.

Professor available for office hours and discussions of presentations and Week 10 work.

June 3 / Week 10:

Presentations and analysis discussion. Donations!