

PPOL 4991
Capstone: Private Initiatives and Public Problems
Spring 2015

Instructor

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L050 Garrett Hal

Office Hours

Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:30 pm

Class meets Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30 am (Garrett Hall Lower Seminar Room)

Description

This is a project-oriented class on using nonprofit organizations as policy vehicles. The class has an extraordinary opportunity to leverage a gift of \$50,000 from the Philanthropy Lab at the Once Upon a Time Foundation to nonprofits engaged in the policy arena.

The class will work with multiple clients to better understand the policy subsystems surrounding specific problems, and make funding recommendations to those clients based on our understanding of the subsystems. Each client will control \$10,000.

An additional \$10,000 will be awarded to groups based on two competitions.

Deliverables

As individual

- 1) Discussion papers. Weekly, submitted by noon on Tuesday. You get two "bye's". (25%)
- 2) Course participation & peer critiques. (10%)
- 3) Stewardship memo: 3-page memo to donor debriefing on our process for allocating \$50,000. Due 5/6. (5%)

In groups

- 1) The Problem of Impact: Working in teams, you will work to improve the Charlottesville Free Clinic's ability to describe the impact of its Dental Clinic. Team winner will gain \$5,000 bonus gift. 2-page memo + in-class pitch. Due date: 1/28 (10%)
- 2) The Problem of Resourcing Ideas: Working in teams, you will create and implement a social media fundraising plan to support "Project Surge!" an initiative of the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless to quickly house 30 homeless people in 30 days. 2-page memo + in-class pitch. Due date: 2/11 (10%)
- 3) Policy Sub-systems Project: Working in teams, you will produce a report and executive summary for your client that explains the broader policy subsystem surrounding your chosen problem. Due date 3/25, but partial drafts will be submitted earlier. (30%)

- 4) Agency evaluations. Working in teams, you will produce a critical evaluation of three potential grantees. Due date 4/22. (10%)

Required books (Amazon or other online retailers are recommended)

Bardach, Eugene. 2011. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. CQ Press College, 4th Edition.

Smith, Stephen and Michael Lipski. 1995. *Nonprofits for Hire: The Welfare State in the Age of Contracting*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Berry, Jeffrey. 2005. *A Voice for Nonprofits*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

Zunz, Olivier. 2011. *Philanthropy in America: A History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Schedule (In draft form. Likely to be revised, so don't plan more than a week out)

January 14

- **Prep for client meetings**
- **Assign groups**
- **Introduce Charlottesville Free Clinic Project**
- Reading: Select articles on Collab

January 21

- **Review case study on impact (9:00 am to 9:45 am)**
- **Meetings with clients (10:00 am -11:30 am)**
- Clotfelter, "The Distributional Consequences of Nonprofit Activities"
- Diaz, "For Whom and For What? The Contributions of the Nonprofit Sector"
- Brest & Harvey, Money Well Spent. Introduction, pages 2-36, 269-280
- [Acumen Video on Making Sense of Social Impact](#)
- [Six Theory of Change Pitfalls to Avoid. Stanford Innovation Review.](#)
- Our Piece of the Pie Case Study: "Making the Biggest Difference in Hartford"
- Our Piece of the Pie Case Study: "From Data to Decision-Making"

January 28

- **Free Clinic Project Due (memos and pitches)**
- **Guest speaker: Kaki Dimock (9 a.m – 9:30 a.m)**
- Schneider & Ingram, "Social Construction of Target Populations"
- Lipsky, "The Critical Role of Street-Level Bureaucrats"

- Kettl, "Transformation of Governance: Globalization, Devolution, and the Role of Government"

February 4

- **Submit scope and work plans**
- **Team briefings on major federal and state policies and actors governing subsystem**
- Smith and Lipsky's "Nonprofits for Hire" (Chapters 1-4)

February 11

- **TJACH Project Due**
- **Team briefings on city/county policies and administrative units involved in subsystem**
- Smith and Lipsky's "Nonprofits for Hire" (Chapters 5-7)

February 18

- **Conference calls with clients (9 a.m. – 10 a.m.)**
- **Team briefings on nonprofits and quasigovernmental units involved**
- Berry's A Voice for Nonprofits (chapters 1-5)

February 25

- **Team-lead discussions on deeper background materials**
 - **Each team will assign one or two readings to discuss**
- Berry's A Voice for Nonprofits (chapters 6-9)

March 4

- **Team briefings on funding flows and gaps**
- Zunz. A History of Philanthropy.

March 18

- **Team briefings on infrastructure and capacity**
- Zunz. A History of Philanthropy.

March 25

- **Policy subsystem briefing books due**
- Zunz. A History of Philanthropy.

April 1

- **Policy Subsystem Briefings with Clients**

April 8

- Open

April 15

- Open

April 22

- Open

May 6: Awards Ceremony