

## **Philanthropy: Society & the Common Good**

**HESB 30348-01**

**POLS 30142-01**

**CNST 30423-01**

**3 Credits**

**Jonathan Hannah, M.Sc., J.D.**

**Fall 2019**

“Very little good can be accomplished, or evil avoided, without the aid of money.” – Catherine McAuley

“This college cannot fail to succeed. Before long, it will develop on a large scale. It will be one of the most powerful means for good in this country.” – Edward Sorin

Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 - 1:45 PM / DeBartolo Hall 203

Office: 3151 Eck Hall of Law

Office Phone: (574)631-9898

Email: Hannah.7@nd.edu

Office Hours: Fridays from 10:30 - 11:30 AM

### **Course Description:**

The primary function of this course is to make a difference in this world. Thanks to the benefaction of generous donors, the students enrolled in this course are given the opportunity to award up to \$50,000 in grant funding to established nonprofit organizations. This is a serious responsibility and students are expected to conduct thoughtful analysis in the decision making process. Students will be placed on teams, and each team must visit at least two nonprofit organizations in the Michiana area.

The grant funding will ultimately be awarded by the students. Each student will be a member of the Board of Directors, and each student will have equal weight when voting. A few students will be selected by random draw to serve as Board Officers to help conduct our meetings. I, as instructor, have no voting authority or privilege concerning the board.<sup>1</sup> During week two of the

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<sup>1</sup> I reserve the right to veto any nomination or award to a nonprofit organization that blatantly disrespects the mission of Notre Dame and our Catholic character. The class may also not award grants to the University of Notre Dame or nonprofit organizations where there is a conflict of interest, such as familial employment.

semester, teams will select their first site visits. All nonprofits selected must have certified nonprofit status and accessible 990 forms submitted to the IRS. As a class we will use the semester to explore local nonprofits and then carefully and systematically award between three (3) and five (5) grants. The minimum grant award will be \$4,000 and the maximum will be \$15,000. Some classes in this syllabus are labeled as Board Meetings and will serve as the venue for this analysis.

During other class days we will gather and discuss how philanthropy shapes society. We will look at philanthropy and charity first through the lenses of the founders and early Americans, and from different religious and philosophical traditions. We will then examine how philanthropy evolved throughout American history and how it works today. This will allow us to discuss serious questions as a class. What is the role of philanthropy in 21<sup>st</sup> century America? Why are nonprofits needed today? How do nonprofits function in relation to each other and traditional institutions such as churches and the layers of government?

**Reading Assignments:**

Most reading assignments will be timely articles related to philanthropy. The readings on this syllabus are the required primary readings. Most weeks, the instructor will email the class with a few hypothetical questions to think about while completing the readings along with some additional suggested readings on the subject. Students are expected to read the following books and submit review papers. Each review paper will have specific instructions that will be given to the class early in the semester.

David Callahan, *The Givers: Wealth, Power, and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age* (Knopf, 2017)

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* (Knopf, 2014)

**Individual Assignments:** Each student will randomly be assigned an individual assignment early in the semester. Each individual assignment has been designed to be equal in workload. These assignments are responsibilities that will help the class with the grant-making process.

**Grading:**

Students will be graded as follows:

Class participation and site visits	25%	250 possible points
Individual Assignment	20%	200 possible points
Book Review #1 (6 pages)	25%	250 possible points
Book Review #2 (8 pages)	30%	300 possible points

1,000 possible points

### **Grading Scale**

A 1000-930	A- 929-900	B+ 899-885	B- 829-800
C+ 799-785	C 784-730	C- 729-700	D+ 699-685
D 684-630	D- 629-600	F 599-000	

No extra credit will be given.

Laptop Computers, Tablets, Phones and Recording Devices are not to be used in the classroom without prior approval from the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I shall follow and enforce strictly the university's policies regarding academic integrity.

Honor Code: Class members are expected to understand the principles and procedures set forth in the University of Notre Dame Academic Code of Honor (<http://www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/>) and abide by its pledge: "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty."

Students with Disabilities will be accommodated as extensively as possible. Please talk directly with the instructor regarding any necessary arrangements.

### **Tentative Class Readings and Schedule**

*Note: This Schedule is subject to change. Because this course incorporates guest speakers, site visits, and entails an organized grant-making component, the schedule will most likely have some adjustments throughout the semester.*

### **Class 1 (August 27)**

Course overview: We will review the syllabus, talk about expectations for the class, and discuss the partnership with the Philanthropy Lab. We will also have a brief conversation about the role of philanthropy in society. Students should come to class prepared to discuss societal problems they've noticed and have a conversation about ways philanthropy might help solve those problems.

## **Class 2 (August 29)**

### American Society and Basis for Philanthropy

Alexis de Tocqueville, "[Political Associations in the United States](#)"

Alana Semuels, "[The Founding Fathers Weren't Concerned With Inequality](#)," The Atlantic, April 25, 2016.

George Washington, "[Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789](#)"

Browse [A History of Modern Philanthropy](#) timeline from the National Philanthropic Trust

## **Class 3 (September 3)**

### Religion Influencing Philanthropy

Robert D. Putnam & David E. Campbell, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* (Simon & Schuster, 2010). Required: Chapter 13, Religion and Good Neighborliness

Arthur C. Brooks, "[Why Giving Matters](#)," Speech delivered at Brigham Young University, February 24, 2009

## **Class 4 (September 5)**

### Is There a Duty for Individuals to Give?

Charles Murray, "[The Tendrils of Community](#)"

USCCB, [Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching](#)

The New American Bible, [Matthew 25:34-40 & Luke 21:1-4](#)

**Objective:** By the end of this class period, site visit teams should be formed. Team captains (upperclassmen randomly selected by the instructor) must email team rosters to the instructor by September 6th at noon). Teams should spend a few minutes together after class discussing possible site visit locations. Teams should come to the next class with at least five prospective site visit locations.

## **Class 5 (September 10)**

### Is There a Duty for Companies to Give?

Milton Friedman, John Mackey & T.J. Rodgers, "[Rethinking the Social Responsibility of Business](#)," Reason, October 2005

Michael E. Porter & Mark R. Kramer, "[The Competitive Advantage of Corporate Philanthropy](#)," Harvard Business Review, December 2002

Suntae Kim, Matthew J. Karlesky, Christopher G. Myers & Todd Schifeling, "[Why Companies Are Becoming B Corporations](#)," Harvard Business Review, June 2016

**Objective:** This class period will begin with site visit selections. Teams should have at least five site visit locations that all team members would feel comfortable visiting.

## **Class 6 (September 12)**

### Board of Directors Meeting #1

For the first Board Meeting, the Board President and Vice President should lead a discussion about the upcoming site visit locations. The discussion should provide all board members with opportunities to voice opinions and concerns. Other topics that might be discussed: (1) should the board focus on specific areas of philanthropy? (2) how many grants should be given? (3) how should the upcoming site visits be conducted? (4) are there other organizations that are clearly deserving of site visits?

## **Class 7 (September 17)**

### Site Visit Day Off

There will be no class this day. Site visit teams are encouraged to complete their second site visit if agreeable with all team members.

## **Class 8 (September 19)**

### Rise of the Foundations

Andrew Carnegie, "[The Gospel of Wealth](#)," The Century Co. (Digitized by Cornell University)  
Bill Gates, "[Harvard Commencement 2007](#)," The Harvard Gazette

## **Class 9 (September 24)**

### Is Philanthropy Efficient? Is it Fair?

Alana Semuels, "[The Problem with Modern Philanthropy](#)," The Atlantic, March 28, 2017  
Malcolm Gladwell, "[My Little Hundred Million](#)," Revisionist History Podcast Season 1 Episode 6, July 21, 2016

**Objective:** Select second site visit locations.

## **Class 10 (September 26)**

### Philanthropy in Practice

Guest Speaker from a nonprofit organization (Speaker TBA)

## **Class 11 (October 1)**

### Philanthropy and You

Justin Wheeler, "[How Millennials Are Changing Philanthropy](#)," Forbes, August 15, 2018  
Peter Singer, "[What Should a Billionaire Give – And What Should You?](#)" The New York Times Magazine, December 17, 2006

## **Class 12 (October 3)**

Site visit recaps: Each team should come to class prepared to present their findings from the first site visit. These presentations will be informal, but teams should communicate what they learned, give some type of analysis of any strengths and weaknesses of the organizations, and field questions from the other students. This is not a Board meeting but rather a class led by the instructor.

Giving priority discussion: After site visit recaps, the class will have a conversation regarding what we have learned so far about issues in the Michiana area and the philanthropic landscape addressing those issues. No decisions need to be made at this point, but the class should talk about: (1) what are immediate needs that could be addressed? (2) what are some long term cyclical issues that could be addressed with funding? (3) are there any issues or societal problems in the area that are obviously not being addressed by anyone?

### **Class 13 (October 8)**

#### Board of Directors Meeting #2

Given the findings from the first round of site visits, the Board should determine if any other organizations not considered merit a site visit. The Board should also discuss the RFP process.

### **Class 14 (October 10)**

#### Site Visit Day Off

There will be no class this day. Site visit teams are encouraged to complete their second site visit if agreeable with all team members.

#### ***Reminder: First paper due***

### **Class 15 (October 15)**

#### Government and Philanthropy

Adam Smith, "[The Theory of Moral Sentiments \(Part VI\)](#)"

John Rawls, "[The Main Idea of the Theory of Justice](#)"

### **Class 16 (October 17)**

#### Consulting Philanthropy

William Schambra, "[Philanthropy's Original Sin](#)," Hudson Institute, October 1, 2013

[Effective Altruism Opinion Articles](#), The Washington Post, 2015

Guest speaker TBA

#### ***Mid-Term Break (Oct. 19-27)***

**Class 17 (October 29)**

Board of Directors Meeting #3

The board will hear from teams about completed site visits.

**Class 18 (October 31)**

Philanthropy Gone Wrong

Readings to be assigned.

**Class 19 (November 5)**

Board of Directors Meeting #4

The board will meet with the goal of narrowing the list of eligible organizations to ten.

**Class 20 (November 7)**

Legal Case Studies

Bob Jones University v. United States, 461 U.S. 574 (1983)

Boy Scouts of America et al v. Dale, 530 U.S. 640 (2000)

**Class 21 (November 12)**

Board of Directors Meeting #5

The board meeting will serve as an open forum with a goal of discussing the remaining organizations and how they compare to one another. The Board should also start to discuss intended grant amounts.

**Class 22 (November 14)**

Philanthropy in Practice

Guest Speaker(s) from a grant-making organization (Speaker TBA)

**Class 23 (November 19)**

The Future of Philanthropy

Susan Ditkoff & Abe Grindle, "[Audacious Philanthropy](#)," Harvard Business Review, September-October, 2017

Various Contributors, "[The Future of Philanthropy](#)," The Nation, July 21, 2016

**Class 24 (November 21)**

Board of Directors Meeting #6

The board meeting will resolve final determination of grant awards. The Board must conclude all grant making decisions including recipients and award amounts. If necessary, the instructor

will serve in an unbiased manner and call votes to resolve the process. Winning organizations must be notified and invited to the awards ceremony by November 25th.

**Class 25 (November 26)**

Prepare for Awards Ceremony

As a class, we will confirm that organizations and guests have been invited to the December 5th Awards Ceremony. We will also generally talk about the ceremony and assign roles as needed.

***Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 27 - Dec. 1***

**Class 26 (December 3)**

Prepare for Awards Ceremony

The class will meet to address any outstanding issues related to the Awards Ceremony.

**Class 27 (December 5)**

Awards Ceremony (in lieu of final examination)

Remarks from instructor

Remarks from select students

Remarks from university leadership if possible

Presentation of checks to grantees

Location TBD

**Class 28 (December 10)**

Reflection Class

A class to discuss the course, what we learned, and how we will use the knowledge moving forward.

***Reminder: Second paper due***