Nonprofit Ph.D. Seminar

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Office Hours: by appointment  
Location: Sparks 310 (subject to change)  
Schedule: Thursdays, 1pm to 3:30pm  
Credit Hours: 3

Course Description

This course introduces early stage doctoral students in PMAP, Economics and other university doctoral programs, and advanced master’s degree students interested in pursuing doctoral work, to the research literature in nonprofit sector-related studies in order to assist them in framing research papers and doctoral dissertations in this field. The approach will be multidisciplinary – involving nonprofit research undertaken within various disciplinary frameworks including public policy, economics, political science, sociology, history, and management studies. Students will read and analyze selected review articles, formulate their own research projects, develop their own reviews of the literature, and prepare and present an original research paper intended for delivery at a scholarly conference.

Course Objectives

To expose doctoral level students to the extensive research literature on nonprofit organizations and related subjects such as social enterprise and civil society in a variety of academic disciplines and different national and international contexts

To familiarize doctoral students with review articles that summarize knowledge on particular aspects of nonprofit research and identify state of the art research needs and opportunities

To assist doctoral students in preparing original reviews of the literature on cutting edge research questions or issues relevant to the role, behavior, functioning and policy relevance of nonprofit organizations

To assist doctoral students in framing new research projects to extend knowledge of a particular subject or answer new research questions related to nonprofit organizations and the nonprofit sector
To guide students in the process of preparing scholarly papers for delivery at professional research conferences or for submission to scholarly journals.

**Course Requirements**

Students are required to attend classes regularly, and complete assigned readings prior to each class.

Students are required to make several presentations in class including reviews of assigned literature, original reviews of the literature, research project proposals, proposals for conference presentations, and, where feasible, preliminary findings of original research.

Students will be asked to discuss and critique each others’ work in class.

Students will submit several assignments in writing, including an original literature review, a research project proposal, a proposal for a conference presentation and a draft research paper.

**Grading**

Grades will be based 50% on class participation and 50% on the written research paper submitted by each student at the end of the semester.

**Required Texts:**


Bruce A. Seaman and Dennis R. Young (eds.), *Handbook of Research on Nonprofit Economics and Management*, Edward Elgar, 2010

**Recommended Sources**


Luigino Bruni and Stefano Zemagni (eds.), *Handbook on the Economics of Reciprocity and Social Enterprise*, Edward Elgar, 2013


Alain Fayolle and Harry Matlay (eds.), *Handbook of Research on Social Entrepreneurship*, Edward Elgar, 2010


Key review articles as found in journals such as the *Journal of Economic Literature, Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, Nonprofit Management and Leadership, Voluntas, American Review of Public Administration, Journal of Social Enterprise, Nonprofit Policy Forum, Journal of Social Entrepreneurship, Social Enterprise Journal* and others.

Professional resources such as *ARNOVA Abstracts* and special research summary reports of organizations such as ARNOVA, ISTR, EMES European Research Network, The Aspen Institute, The Urban Institute and various nonprofit university academic centers.

Helpful websites include: [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)  
[www.arnova.org](http://www.arnova.org)  
[www.istr.org](http://www.istr.org)  
[www.emes.net](http://www.emes.net)  
[www.nationalcne.org](http://www.nationalcne.org)  
[www.naccouncil.org](http://www.naccouncil.org) (listing of individual academic centers)

We will also use the class’s Desire2Learn site to post articles of interest and to share drafts, presentations and works in progress. (Class member and GRA Jung-In Soh will manage the site.)

**Course Policies and Procedures**

Attendance is required. Absence will not be considered an excuse for failure to complete work or remain up to date with assignments

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please read the university’s policy on academic honesty in section 1344 of the Graduate Catalogue, pp. 53-56, including the definition of plagiarism.
Course Topics, Schedule and Assignments

January

16th: Introductory discussion of student research interests and review of course syllabus and objectives

23rd: Discussion of Nonprofit Management and Leadership, Special Issue on Research Method Best Practices and selected discipline-based chapters in Powell and Steinberg. Students are assigned to summarize and highlight ideas from articles on research in alternative disciplines. Discussion of strengths and limitation of alternative disciplinary approaches to nonprofit research

30th: Discussion of previous week continued

February

6th: Students each choose a review article to present in class, from Powell and Steinberg, Seaman and Young, or other sources (see above); Student presentations of their selected articles, focusing on: What do we know? What don’t we know? What are the limitations of research to date? What new research would be productive to extend current knowledge?

13th: Continued presentation of review articles from the literature.

20th: Continued presentation of review articles from the literature. Students begin to consider their own research questions for original research

27th: Students will be asked to propose their own research projects, for discussion/consideration in class, based on what they’ve learned from the review articles and class presentations.

March

6th: Students asked to write and present research proposal outlines for discussion in class. Questions to be addressed include: What is the research question? Why is this an interesting or compelling question? How does this question follow from existing research and current knowledge? What will be the methodological/disciplinary approach to this research? What theory will be engaged? What hypotheses will be tested? What data will be used? What will be the unit of analysis? What analytical techniques will be utilized? Why is this project a logical next step in building knowledge?

13th: Progress reports on student papers
20th: Spring Break; no class

27th: Students present initial sections of their draft research papers, including Abstract, Introduction and Literature Review sections. Consideration given to preparing proposals for the November 2014 ARNOVA conference or other appropriate scholarly conferences.

April

3rd: Continued student presentations and discussion of initial sections of draft research papers and conference proposals

10th: Students present their proposed methodologies, including theoretical foundations, disciplinary approach, sources of data and methods of analysis.

17th: Young faculty members will be invited to discuss their experiences in developing their own dissertations and research agendas. Students will present their research proposals and receive feedback from guest faculty.

24th: Last class: Students present their own draft papers and formally critique each others’ papers; each student is assigned as a formal discussant of another student’s paper. Review of semester learnings; discussion of process/strategy for completing final drafts and submitting papers for conference or journal consideration

May

1st: Final papers due

12/27/13