

JSGS 811 Non-Governmental Organizations and Alternative Service Delivery

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA CAMPUS	
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OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment, via Zoom
OFFICE LOCATION:	Physical location - CB 332.5
TERM:	Winter 2021
ROOM:	Virtual: Zoom and UR courses
DATE AND TIME:	Thursdays: January 14, 2021 to April 15, 2021

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Non-profit sector in Canada is not only an economic driver employing 12% of Canadian labour force, but also a reliable provider of public goods and services. As our government begins to depend more on the third sector to deliver public services to its citizens, it is important to study the increasing role played by the third sector in Canada. JSGS 811 provides a descriptive and analytical overview of the Canadian voluntary sector. This graduate course focuses on the structure of the voluntary sector, its history and relationship with government. It also explores basic pressures of operating nonprofit organizations, both within historical and contemporary contexts. This course challenges students to assess criteria, which determine the enabling policy environment for non-profit organizations. It seeks to answer questions such as: What is the role of non-governmental organizations in Canadian society? What program areas do these organizations fund? And how these organizations are funded? How do non-profits participate in creation of good public policy? Theoretical content of this course accompanies practical learning delivered by expert practitioners from the voluntary sector community (where possible).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, the students will understand how non-governmental organizations operate, the regulatory environment that shapes the non-profit sector and the role of non-profit organizations in the public policy debate. More specifically, the learners will:

- Gain an understanding about the purpose of non-profit organizations;
- Know the composition of the non-profit sector and its governing structure;
- Evaluate policy frameworks that guide the operation of non-profit organizations and critically assess policies that advance the functionality and greater contribution of the sector to our society.

ATTRIBUTES OF JSGS GRADUATES

1. Management, Governance, and Leadership: Ability to inspire support for a vision or course of action and successfully direct the teams, processes, and changes required to accomplish it.
2. Communication and Social Skills: Ability to communicate effectively and build enduring, trust-based interpersonal, professional relationships.
3. Systems Thinking and Creative Analysis: Ability to identify key issues and problems, analyze them systematically, and reach sound, innovative conclusions.
4. Public Policy and Community Engagement: Ability to understand how organizational and public policies are formulated, their impact on public policy and management and how to influence their development.
5. Continuous Evaluation and Improvement: Commitment to on-going evaluation for continuous organizational and personal improvement.
6. Policy Knowledge: Ability to analyze and contribute content to at least one applied policy field.

COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH

This course is designed to provide an overview of the non-profit sector within historical and contemporary contexts. While the focus of the course is on non-profit organizations in Canada, the students will have an opportunity to draw extensively from the non-profit sectors in the United States and the United Kingdom. The first part of the course will provide students with a thorough lay of the non-profit scene in Canada including the role of charitable foundations in a Canadian society as a steadily growing type of registered charities. Some time will also be spent on establishing the regulatory environment in which non-profit organizations operate. The second part of the course will begin by establishing

how non-profit organizations are governed and financed. Given that non-profits are addressing significant community needs with constricting financial resources, the roles of the boards in ensuring financial sustainability will be discussed. The remaining topics will be centered around the role of charities in contributing to public policy debates and also whether the current policy environment promotes the non-profit sector in Canada. This course will be based on a combination of lectures, presentations from students and guest speakers and seminar style discussions of relevant literature.

IMPORTANT DATES

- This course runs every Thursday, from January 14, 2021 to April 16, 2021. We will meet via Zoom for 2 hours, from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm. The students will use remaining class time to work through activities and readings posted on UR courses.
- On January 14, students will complete asynchronous activities posted on UR courses.
- The first Zoom session will take place on January 21.
- No class on February 18 due to reading week.
- Last Zoom session – April 15, 2021.

ACADEMIC HONOUR CODE

At the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS), we believe honesty and integrity are fundamental in a community dedicated to learning, personal development, and a search for understanding. We revere these values and hold them essential in promoting personal responsibility, moral and intellectual leadership, and pride in ourselves and our University. As JSGS students, we will represent ourselves truthfully, claim only work that is our own, and engage honestly in all academic assignments. Since articulated standards and expectations can influence attitudes, and because each of us shares the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity, we are committed to upholding the Academic Honor Code.

ACADEMIC HONOUR PLEDGE

As a member of the JSGS community, I pledge to live by and to support the letter and spirit of JSGS's Academic Honour Code.

U of R: Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uregina.ca/president/executive-team/ed-governance-univ-secretary/student-appeals/student-behaviour.html>

USask: Academic Misconduct

<https://secretariat.usask.ca/student-conduct-appeals/academic-misconduct.php#About>

EVALUATION

20% Student Engagement: JSGS 811 is an interactive course, based on an active learner model. Active engagement in learning is expected from all students registered in this course. Engaging does not mean just attending. It is contributing, it is taking initiative, it is demonstrating motivation. Engagement in an online course will be different than participation in an in-person class. You will have an opportunity to engage via discussion forums (details will be provided on UR courses), in-class group discussions and by asking questions and offering topic-related comments during Zoom sessions.

Due date: ongoing

20% Critical review essay: The readings for this course are carefully selected to provide students with an opportunity to learn about pertinent issues and debates related to the non-profit sector. The purpose of this assignment is to reflect, critique and analyze the assigned articles. Articles will be assigned to students during the week of January 18.

Essays must be a maximum 1,000 words in length, single-spaced and typed in a 12-point font (this is approximately two single-spaced pages). Review essays are NOT summaries of the readings. You are required to make links between readings, as well as providing a critical assessment of those readings. The essay should situate the readings and their research question(s) in the literature and discuss strengths and weaknesses. The students will be provided with a resources on UR courses that will assist them with the article review.

Due date: one week after the week that the article is assigned in the course outline.

20% Grant-receiving charity profile: This assignment requires students to use CRA's List of Charities (https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/hacc/srch/pub/dsplyBscSrch?request_locale=en) to find a charitable organization that has received a grant from another registered charity. After you have identified a charity of interest, you will need to create a brief profile about this charity. For example, what is its mission and what programs it funds; the sources of its funding; who governs it; what are its revenues and expenditures. This profile is not to exceed 3 pages.

Due date: February 25 at noon on UR courses.

40% Experiential Case Study – Group Project: Each group is responsible for identifying a non-profit in Saskatchewan and completing a short case study of it. Students will work in groups of 2-3 individuals. If you are employed by a non-profit, you may do a case study of that organization, but I would like to encourage you to consider a study of an unfamiliar organization. The goal of the case study is to establish how a chosen non-profit conducts itself within one of the three broad themes we will be covering in this course: non-profit finance,

non-profit governance and leadership, and the role of non-profits in public policy. The students are expected to conduct at least one informal interview with the leader(s) of their chosen non-profit and incorporate the responses into the write-up.

Due date: April 22 at noon on UR courses.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Timely submission of assignments is important for the course to run smoothly and there should be clear expectations that students present their assignments to the instructor on the indicated dates. “Make up” assignments are not permitted.

COURSE OUTLINE

Please note that detailed material with readings will be posted on UR Courses for each class. Below is a high-level list of JSGS 811 topics:

- 1. What is a non-profit sector and why do we need it?**
- 2. Legitimacy of non-profit organizations**
- 3. Government and non-profit relationships**
- 4. The United Way Phenomenon**
- 5. Canada’s Non-profit Data**
- 6. Non-profit Financing: Sources of Support for Operating Non-profit Organizations**
- 7. Leadership and Governance in the Non-Profit Sector**
- 8. The Role of Non-profits in Public Policy**

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

University of Regina (U of R): Students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to discuss this need with the instructor and to contact the Coordinator of Special Needs Services at (306) 585-4631.

U OF S: Students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to discuss this need with the instructor and to contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) at 966-7273.

Students Experiencing Stress

University of Regina (U of R): Students in this course who are experiencing stress can seek assistance from the University of Regina Counselling Services. For more information, please see the attached document, visit this website: <http://www.uregina.ca/student/counselling/contact.html>, or call (306) 585-4491 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saskatchewan time Monday to Friday.