

Emerging Issues in the Nonprofit Sector
The Evergreen State College
Masters Program in Public and Nonprofit Administration
Winter 2012 2 Credits

Meeting Dates & Times: February 10 (5p-9p), 11 (9a-5p), 12 (9a-5p)
Meeting Location: TBD
Faculty Member: Doreen Swetkis
Office: Lab I, Room 1015
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 360-867-5320
Email: swetkisd@evergreen.edu

Course Description This two-credit, intensive weekend course will examine issues that have impacted the nonprofit sector in the last few years including re-defining the field, changes in the environment, technology and social networking, international nonprofits, social entrepreneurship/venture philanthropy, partnerships and mergers, etc. Written assignments will consist of two or three small papers, and a larger final paper.

In this course students will be given the opportunity to work through many of the emerging issues impacting nonprofit organizations. It will examine how these emerging issues are impacting the field currently, as well as future possibilities. It is my hope that the course will help students consider possible appropriate actions in ambiguous, complex, and ever-changing situations.

Course Method This course combines substantive readings with case exercises, role plays, workshops, guest lectures, and other activities.

Learning Objectives In this course, students will gain:

1. Increased knowledge and understanding of current issues specifically relevant to nonprofit organizations;
2. Relevance of these current issues to students' perceptions and experience in the field;
3. Improved analytical and writing skills.

Expectations, Credit & Evaluation Students will come prepared and attend every class on time, actively participate in class, and submit assignments on time. All students are expected to support and contribute to a well functioning MPA classroom learning community. Behavior that disrupts the learning community may be grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the MPA program.

Your written work must be of the highest quality—clear with accurate grammar and spelling. Honor space limitations by distilling your thoughts and editing your writing rather than by reducing your font size and margins. Give yourself time to write drafts. You may benefit from consulting The Writing Center, or partnering with a colleague to proofread your work.

Students will receive two (2) credits at the completion of the course if all expectations and course requirements have been successfully completed. Plagiarism (i.e., using other peoples work as your own without acknowledging the source), missing class, failing to complete one or more assignments, completing one or more assignments late (without having made arrangements before the due date) may be grounds for denial of credit. Because of the intensive weekend format of this class, students can not miss more than two (2) hours of class time without a loss of credit, and must inform me in advance. Additional time absent will result in partial or no credit given for the course. An incomplete is not an option.

Students are required to submit a self-evaluation and a faculty evaluation. You can submit these evaluations to me via email at swetkisd@evergreen.edu or the MPA program secretary at lab2support@evergreen.edu. An evaluation conference is encouraged, but not required.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus.

Before Class Begins, please have the following items completed:

- ▶ Read *The Networked Nonprofit: Connecting with Social Media to Drive Change* by Beth Kanter and Allison Fine. 2010. Jossey-Bass. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0470547977. This is the only required text for the course.
- ▶ Write a three-page seminar paper on *The Networked Nonprofit*, to be turned in the first night of class.
- ▶ Read additional readings posted to Moodle and/or distributed in class. Please check Moodle periodically once it opens for Winter Quarter for additional course materials.

After Class Assignment

There will be a 6-8 page paper (typed, double-spaced, size 10 or 12 font) **due Monday, February 27, 2012**. Paper topic and details will be given in class.

Class Schedule This section is under construction, and will be completed over winter break, then posted to Moodle.