**COURSE OBJECTIVES**
The course explores the interaction between public policy and nonprofit organizations: how nonprofits influence and are influenced by public decision-making. We will examine the role of nonprofits vis-à-vis the public sector, broadly, and in public policy formation, specifically. While we will focus primarily on the United States, we will also investigate nonprofit-related policy issues from a comparative international perspective. The topics covered include models of government-nonprofit relations, public policies toward nonprofits (tax policies, government regulation, charitable choice), accountability, policy advocacy and legislative lobbying, contracting out and other forms of government financing of nonprofit service provision.

**REQUIRED READINGS**
Available for purchase at Mary Jane Books and the UAlbany Bookstore:


Additional readings and roadmaps are available on Blackboard or will be distributed in class.

**SUPPLEMENTARY AND RECOMMENDED READINGS**
Other supplementary documents (news articles, case studies and guidelines for good practice) may be assigned a week before class or distributed in class. Lists of recommended readings and resources are posted on Blackboard (see sites of interest in the Web Links section).

If you want to seek wider help from the nonprofit community on your final paper, I recommend you join ARNOVA-L, the Nonprofit Organization, Voluntary Action and Philanthropy Discussion List for the duration of the course. For instructions click Arnova Listserve on <www.arnova.org>.

**COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS**
The course is designed as a seminar involving brief lectures, class discussion, student presentations, small-group work and occasional case studies. The course uses Blackboard to enhance interaction.

**Attendance and Participation.** Active participation in class discussions is required and highly valued in this course. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. To help you do that, most weeks I will prepare a short roadmap to guide you through the following week’s readings. These roadmaps, posted on Blackboard, will help you identify the main issues in the readings and provide broad
questions that we will discuss in class. You can miss up to 2 classes without being penalized. If you miss more than 2 classes, your default participation grade will be B (or less, depending on your performance).

**Reflection papers.** Students are required to write four short reflection papers (2 pages, single space), one per each section of the course. A good reflection paper should be analytical; it should go beyond simply summarizing the readings or providing a description of a case. You are expected to demonstrate your skills of critical thinking. You may address a question in the roadmaps or an issue you find intriguing that is pertinent to the theme of the section. You can analyze a recent policy development, compare perspectives in the readings, or you can opt to compare the US with a foreign country in terms of some issues highlighted in the readings. Papers are due by **9 am on Thursday** on Blackboard. I will not accept email submissions or papers reflecting on readings we have already discussed in class. Late submissions will be penalized with grade reduction.

**Discussion Questions and Answers (Q&A).** Each week you have to submit one question regarding the week’s theme that you would like to be addressed in class. Questions should be posted on the week’s discussion page on Blackboard by **9 pm on Wednesday**, with your name indicated. You are expected to scan through the questions before class and respond to another student’s question by the beginning of the class. You will receive credit for 10 Q&As, thus you will not have to do this every week. You can choose to structure your reflection paper around the question you pose for the week.

**Team Projects.** Students are required to take ownership of one session section. You can work in teams of two or three. Your task is to design a presentation or a class activity that adds something new to the required readings. For instance, you can describe recent developments in the subject area (such as the impact of a new policy) or illustrate the topic through real-life cases you are familiar with, show video clips and lead a discussion session, and so on. You are not asked to regurgitate the readings. Your section should be no longer than 25 minutes and inform the instructor of your section plan by the Wednesday before class. Team members will receive the same grade unless they successfully present a report to demonstrate unequal work share.

**Paper Proposal.** You have to submit a short proposal of your final paper that should identify the central question, the goal and possible structure of the paper, along with the scholarly literature you plan to cover (with preliminary bibliography). Include the sources of data and other information, especially if you plan to write a research-based paper. Proposals are due by **March 30**.

**Final paper.** A final paper of 15-20 pages (double-spaced) is required on a substantive theme explored in the course. You are granted freedom in selecting the topic of your paper but you are encouraged to consult me regarding your choice. You can do a comparative analysis of nonprofit-public policy interaction in the United States and another country. You can also opt to write a literature review or expand a theme in your reflection papers into your final paper. The final paper is due by **May 7** on Blackboard. I will consider collaborative team papers.

**Grading and Grade Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Projects</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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I do not grade on a curve. Students receive a letter grade that matches their performance throughout the course and is based on a scale of 10-point intervals (e.g. A = 90-100). If a student has a grade dispute, they should submit a one-page memo to the instructor presenting evidence for their case. The instructor
will review and re-grade the original assignment. This review can create a grade increase or even a grade decrease based on the new overall evaluation.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Late paper policy.** Late assignments will be penalized by reducing points you can earn, except under extraordinary circumstances when the instructor has given advance permission. You cannot take an incomplete for this course. All assignments need to be submitted by **May 10**.

**Plagiarism.** Please review the University’s policy on violations of academic integrity <http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm> regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty and the Plagiarism 101 tutorial at <http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/>. Any forms of academic dishonesty will be penalized with a failing grade for the assignment and/or for the course and by referral to the appropriate university judicial board. You are required to submit your assignments online via Blackboard’s SafeAssign, which detects and prevents incidents of online plagiarism.

**Policy on Green Classroom.** I encourage the reduction of paper waste and the electronic submission of assignments via Blackboard. If you prefer a hard-copy submission, I encourage two-sided printing and the recycling of used paper.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reflection paper</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Part I: Overview</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Nonprofits, Civil Society, Democracy</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Nonprofit-Government Relations</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Part II: Public Policies Toward Nonprofits</td>
<td>Public Policies Benefiting Nonprofits</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Policies Regulating Nonprofits</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Legal Environment: Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>Legal Environment: Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Regulation of U.S.-based International Nonprofits</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Part III: Policy Advocacy</td>
<td>Public Policy Advocacy: Overview</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Foundations, Think Tanks</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>Transnational/International Advocacy</td>
<td>Q&amp;A Paper proposal</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Part IV: Service Provision and Policy Implementation</td>
<td>Government Financing, Contracting</td>
<td>Q&amp;A;</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Social Service Provision</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 19</td>
<td>Other Avenues to Funding (Nonprofit) Service Provision</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
<td>Field work and paper project</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Wrap-Up Roundtable</td>
<td>BYO dinner</td>
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**PART I: OVERVIEW: NONPROFITS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

1. **Introduction to the course, course organization (Jan 19)**


2. Nonprofits, Civil Society, and Democracy (Jan 26)

or
and
and

3. Nonprofit-Government Relationships (Feb 2)


PART II: PUBLIC POLICIES TOWARD NONPROFITS

4. Public Policies Benefiting Nonprofits: Tax Exemption and Tax Incentives for Charitable Giving (Feb 9)


5. Public Policies Regulating Nonprofits: Accountability, Governance and Public Trust (Feb 16)


6. The Legal Environment for Nonprofits and Civil Society Organizations from a Comparative Perspective: Overview and the Case of Accountability Enforcing Mechanisms (Feb 23)


7. Regulation of U.S.-based International Nonprofits (Mar 1)

Readings to be announced.

PART III: POLICY ADVOCACY


Executive Summary: Overview of Findings of Strengthening Nonprofit Advocacy Project. 2002. OMB Watch, Tufts University and Charity Lobbying in the Public Interest. Blackboard


### 9. The War of Ideas: Foundations, Think Tanks and Their Influence on Public Policy (Mar 22)


### 10. Transnational Advocacy and Nonprofit Advocacy in Comparative Perspective (Mar 29)

**Nonprofit Advocacy in Comparative Perspective**


**Transnational Advocacy**


PART IV: SERVICE PROVISION AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

11. Government Financing of Nonprofits and Contracting (April 5)


12. Social Service Provision and Charitable Choice (Apr 12)


13. Other Avenues to Funding (Nonprofit) Service Provision: Lessons from Abroad or Remedies to Foreign Woes? (Apr 19)


14-15. Wrap-Up and Roundtable

Students will work and report on individualized assignments based on their paper proposals.