Course Objective
Non-governmental, non-profit organizations (NGNPOs) have emerged as important actors in local, national, and international politics. As units of collective action, they advocate policy positions and produce collective goods. They are often viewed as crucial building blocks for democracy and economic growth. NGNPOs compete and cooperate with governments and with firms. Importantly, they compete and cooperate with one another for membership, external funding, and media attention. Although they are termed as ‘non-governmental’ organizations, many of them rely on governments for much of their funding. And, some NGNPOs have highly questionable and normatively inappropriate goals. In sum, there is a scholarly need to systematically examine NGNPOs as units of collective action, and answer key questions such as under what conditions they emerge, how they structure their organization, how they function, and how they influence policy.

Several literatures study the advocacy and collective good provision functions of NGNPOs. These are:
- the NGO politics and civil society literatures in political science,
- the social movement literature in sociology, and
- the non-profit (NP) literature in public policy/administration/management.

This course will investigate key theoretical and empirical issues raised in these literatures pertaining to NGNPO goals, strategy, politics, and efficacy. We will focus on topics that are theoretically and empirically interesting, and have attracted scholarly attention.
Readings
Book:

Articles
I have uploaded journal articles on Canvas.

Course Expectations
This course requires active student participation. You are expected to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions in the following ways.

Student Presentations
For every session, students will present and critique the assigned articles. The discussant-presenter should prepare a two-page (single-spaced) “Article Memo” which summarizes the article, examines its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies questions it raises for future research. Please email this memo to the class by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10-15 minutes for the in-class oral presentation.

Class Participation
Needless to say, I expect seminar participants to review all the assigned readings prior to the class. Based on these readings, for any 6 sessions (the course has three parts; 2 memos from every part of this course), please will email me two questions or issues you want to discuss in the class (students assigned a specific article will not do so; they will email their “Article Memo” only). Instead of listing your questions, please briefly explain how these questions contribute to our understanding of the article(s) under discussion. Your “Key Questions Memo” should be about one-page (single-spaced) and reach me by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class.

Research Paper
A five-page (single-spaced; excluding references and tables) research paper is due December 6. Identify an NGO and explore any two of its salient dimensions such as organizational structure, advocacy or service delivery strategies, fund raising, etc. Make sure to relate this to the relevant readings in the course. Alternatively, identify two NGOs and compare them on the above dimensions. One page paper outline is due November 8.
Evaluation

Article Memos: 30 points
Key Questions Memos: 30 points
Class Participation: 20 points
Research Paper: 20 points

Note
I reserve the right to change the syllabus without prior notice.

Class Schedule

Session 1
Wednesday, September 27
Introduction to the course

Session 2
Monday, October 2
What is Civil Society?


Session 3
Wednesday, October 4
The Spread of Civil Society


Session 4
Monday, October 9
Variations in Civil Society


Session 5
Wednesday, October 11
National Styles of Civil Society
• Archambault, Priller, and Zimmer. 2014. European Civil Societies Compared: Typically German–Typically French?. Voluntas. 25: 514-537
• Sabine. 1952. The Two Democratic Traditions. The Philosophical Review. 61: 451-474.

Session 6
Monday, October 16
Bottom Up or Top Down?

Session 7
Wednesday, October 18
Social Capital
Session 8
Monday, October 23

Advocacy Strategies

Session 9
Wednesday, October 25

Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 1, Introduction
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 5, Bob
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 8, Ron and Cooley
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 10, Henderson

Session 10
Monday, October 30

Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 2, McGee
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 3, Gill & Pfaff
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 6, Barakaso
• Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 7, Pralle

Session 11
Wednesday, November 1

Problematizing Civil Society
Session 12
Monday, November 6
Norm Conflict

Paper outline is due

Session 13
Wednesday, November 8
Accountability

Session 14
Monday, November 13
Resource Dependence
Session 15  
**Wednesday, November 15**  
**Volunteering**

Session 16  
**Monday, November 20**  
**Charity Markets**

Session 17  
**Wednesday, November 22**  
**Foundations**

Session 18  
**Monday, November 27**  
**Foundations in International Context**

**Session 19**

**Wednesday, November 29**

*NGOs and the War on Terror*


**Session 20**

**Monday, December 4**

*NGOs in the international Context*


**Paper turned in**

**Session 21**

**Wednesday, December 6**

*Faith-based Nonprofits*