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. Like firms and governments, NGNPOs suffer from principal-agent problems and develop, with varying levels of success, governance mechanisms to mitigate such problems. 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 public and corporate 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 doctoral seminar 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. I hope this seminar will help you synthesize various NGNPO literatures and develop ideas for research papers, research grants, and/or your dissertation.

Readings
Book:
Articles
I will create an electronic reserve for the assigned articles:

You will need your UW email password to access the course reserve. These articles can also be accessed through UW’s online e-journal library. Here are the URLs:
- Off campus: [http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu/menu](http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu/menu)

Course Expectations
This seminar 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 Friday, 12:00 noon. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10 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, please will email me a couple of 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 Friday, 12:00 noon.

Research Proposal
A five page (single-spaced) research proposal is due December 6. Treat this as a first cut for a grant proposal (say, NSF dissertation grant) or your MA/PhD thesis proposal. One page proposal outlines are due November 15. The research proposal could be structured as follows:

- **Research Puzzle**
  What is the central issue you want to study and why is it theoretically important? What is (are) your dependent variable(s), independent variable(s), and the logic connecting the two?

- **Research Context**
  How does your topic fit in the existing NGO/Social Movement/ Non-Profit literature? What are relevant concepts or models? What are the research gaps?

- **Research Design**
  What is the appropriate research strategy for examining your research puzzle? What are your hypotheses? What are your data requirements? How would you analyze and interpret the data?
Research Contributions

What new insight your research is expected to provide? What are the implications for future research on NGOs, social movements, or non-profits?

Evaluation

| Article Memo                              | 40 points |
| Key Questions Memo and class participation | 40 points |
| Research proposal                        | 20 points |

Class Schedule

October 4

The Civil Society Debate


October 11

NGOs: An Overview


October 18

NGOs and World Politics


October 25
Advocacy Strategies

November 1
Accountability

October 8
Social Movements (1)


Research Proposal Outline due
November 15
Social Movements (2)

November 22
Non-Profits

November 29
Social Capital

Final Paper turned in

*December 6*

**NGOs and Collective Action**


To be emailed.