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. 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, many 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 function, and how they influence public and corporate policy.

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

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 paper(s) or your dissertation.
Readings

Books:

Articles:
Most articles can be accessed through UW’s online e-journal library. Here are the URLs:
- On campus: http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/
- Off campus: http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu/menu

I will provide photocopies of a couple of articles.

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 is expected to prepare a two page (single-spaced) summary and critique of article and email it to the class by Tuesday, 12:00 noon. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10-15 minutes for the presentation. I will circulate a sign-up sheet on the first day of class.

Class Participation
All (but the discussant-presenters) will email me key questions they want to discuss in the class. Instead of merely 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). Your email should reach me by Tuesday, 12:00 noon.

Research Proposal
A five page (single-spaced) research proposal is due March 16. Treat this as a first cut for a grant proposal or your MA/PhD thesis proposal. One page proposal outlines are due February 16. 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?

In-class proposal presentations are scheduled for March 16.

Evaluation
“Article critique” memo (10 points per memo) 80 points
“Key questions” memo and overall class participation 20 points
Research proposal 20 points

Class Schedule
January 5
The Civil Society Debate

January 12
NGOs: Definitional Issues
• Keck and Sikkink. *Activists beyond borders*. Chapters 1, 2.

January 19
NGOs and World Politics


January 26
**NGO Political Strategy**
- Keck and Sikkink. Chapters 3, 4, and 5
- Sasser, Prakash, Cashore, and Auld. 2004. Direct targeting as NGO political strategy. Draft (will be emailed).

February 2
**Assessing Claims about NGOs**

February 9
**Social Movements: Political Opportunities**
- McAdams et al., chapters 1-5

February 16 (Proposal outlines turned in)
**Social Movements: Mobilizing Structures**
- McAdams et al., chapters 6-10

February 23
**Social Movements: Framing Processes**
- McAdams et al., chapter 11-15.
March 2

Non-Profit Theory


March 9

Empirical Research on Non-Profits


March 16

Research Proposals Turned In

In-Class Presentations