Course Description:

This course offers a broad intellectual foundation and applied approach to the guiding theories and philosophy of nonprofit practice and community development. By examining different models of community-based nonprofits, students will explore relevant issues of public service, funding, evaluation, public policy, social capital, and civic engagement. What is the role of community nonprofit organizations in our society? In what ways do nonprofit organizations function as "vehicles" for citizen participation? Are nonprofit organizations “manifestations of community”?

Through a combination of readings, discussions, lectures, and hands on experience the class will explore the origins, functions, and roles of community nonprofit organizations and contemporary challenges. In this inquiry-based course, students will be asked to apply their learning in an experience working with a community nonprofit and engage in an in-depth critical analysis.

Course Objectives:

Through this course, students will:

(a) Develop/expand their understanding of the concept of community and the role of non-profit organizations in communities;
(b) Develop/expand their understanding of critical issues facing nonprofit organizations and the core functions of non-profit organizations; and
(c) Develop/expand their skills working with others to accomplish community objectives.

Community Engaged Learning (CEL)

This class is an official “community-engaged learning” course as designated by the University. As such, students will participate in a community-engaged learning project with a community partner/s. Nonprofit and community practitioners will also visit class.