Philanthropy: The Power of Giving
UGS 303

Fall 2012

Professor: Pamela Paxton
Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:30, Friday recitations
Classroom: 220 Burdine Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00-12:00 or by appointment
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To give away money is an easy matter in any man's power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter. Hence it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy and noble.

--Aristotle, Ethics, 360 BC

Course Description:

Who gives? Who volunteers? Does it matter? This course will cover the scope and diversity of the nonprofit sector, individual patterns of giving and volunteering, and philanthropy in comparative perspective. Further, although billions of dollars are distributed by individuals and charitable foundations each year, only some charitable programs are effective. Thus, a portion of the course will focus on providing students with the tools and skills to evaluate charitable programs for effectiveness.

Based on their own evaluations, students will have the opportunity to distribute $100,000 (provided by an anonymous foundation) to charitable organizations. Students will be placed into groups that will research, discuss, and debate charities, with the whole class determining the ultimate distribution of the funds.

Course Materials:

Other course readings available through Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class Participation (10%) As in all college courses, students should come to class having read and thought about the assigned readings. Regular and thoughtful contributions to classroom discussions are essential to the success of the seminar. Also, attendance matters. Make sure you sign in on the attendance sheet every day. Your attendance will be considered in your overall participation grade. Only students who have attended regularly will vote on the final distribution of the $100,000.

Paper 1 (10%) 250 words, one page. Due: first draft on September 7, revision on September 21. Details provided in handout.

Paper 2 (10%) 500 words, two pages. October 19 first draft; November 2 revision. Details provided in handout.

Paper 3 (20%) 1250 words, five pages. November 20. Details provided in handout.

Oral Presentations (20%) individual and within debates.

University Gems (5%) Visit the Blanton Museum, the Harry Random Center, or some other special amenity of the University. Find out (a) what is special about it and (b) to what extent it depends on philanthropy. Write a one-page essay (250 words) summing up your results. Due December 6.

University Lecture Series (5%) Attend one of the lectures in the University Lecture Series. For Fall 2012 these are Monday, September 17 and Tuesday September 18 at 7:00 pm. See http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/uls You must check in with Maria at the event.

Self-evaluation (5%) 500 words, two pages. Due December 6. Details provided in handout.

Final exam (15%) December 17, 2-3:30

Grades will include + and – distinctions.
Your grade will be docked one grade per day late, for any assignment.

Outline of Course:

August 30: Introduction to the course

Readings:
No readings for today

Listen to Bill Gates’ 2007 Graduation Speech at Harvard
Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP5VIhbJwFs&feature=mu_in_order&list=UL
September 4: What are the Obligations of Wealth?

Readings:
Text of the giving pledge and current signatories. givingpledge.org

September 6: Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector

Readings:

September 11: Giving and Volunteering in the U.S.

Readings:

September 13: Choosing Where to Donate

Readings:

September 18: first group meeting

September 20: Visiting Speakers: panel of students from Spring 2012 philanthropy class
**September 25:** The Nitty Gritty on Donations

*Readings:*

**September 27:** Assessment: Introduction

*Readings:*

**October 2:** The Scientific Method and Experimental Design

*Readings:*
  - http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/destypes.php
  - http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desexpert.php
  - http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/expsimp.php
  - http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/expequi.php
  - http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/random.php

**October 4:** Measuring Impact

*Readings:*

**October 9:** Accountability and Transparency

*Readings:*

**October 11:** Visiting Speaker: David Onion, UT Director of Development
October 16: Visiting Speakers: UT donors

October 18: group meetings

October 23: presentations and debates

October 25: presentations and debates

October 30: The Impact of the Nonprofit Sector

Readings:

November 1: Declines in Volunteering and Other forms of Social Capital

Readings:

November 6: Volunteering

Readings:

November 8: Religion and Volunteering

Readings:

November 13: Foundation Guest Speaker
**November 15:** International Poverty

*Readings:*

**November 20:** The New Battle Against Poverty

*Readings:*

**November 22:** Thanksgiving, no class

**November 27:** Final Presentation and Debates

**November 29:** Final Presentation and Debates

**December 4:** Final Decisions

**December 6:** Course Wrap-Up

*Readings:*

**December 17, 2-3:30** Final Exam  
**December 17, 4:00** Presentation of Checks to Recipients and Celebration

**Helpful Resources:**

GiveWell. In depth charity research, reviews, and recommendations. www.givewell.org

Giving What We Can. Charity reviews and recommendations and a giving pledge. www.givingwhatwecan.org

Guidestar. Basic data about nonprofits, including tax Form 990. www.guidestar.org
Charity Navigator. Charity ratings with emphasis on financial health and accountability/transparency. www.charitynavigator.org


Ashoka. Supporting social entrepreneurs. www.ashoka.org

Foundation Center. Maintains a database on grantmakers and grants and does research, education, and training. www.fdncenter.org

Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Academic center focused on philanthropy. www.philanthropy.iupui.edu

The Life You Can Save. Website related to Peter Singer’s book. www.thelifeyoucansave.com

University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code.

Your work must be your own work. Plagiarism means “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own. To use another’s production without crediting the source” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2012). Do not present someone else’s writing or ideas as your own. This includes unacknowledged word-for-word use of someone else’s work, unacknowledged paraphrasing of someone else’s work, and/or unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas. If you use words or ideas from someone else, you must cite your sources. Unclear on what constitutes plagiarism? Want to know how to avoid it? See http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/

Documented Disability Statement:

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.
- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).

- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD’s website for more disability-related information: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php