

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS - Fall 2009

Professor Cathryn Deal
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Monday & Wednesday
2-2:50 pm
Law 06

GOALS

This course will enable you to understand the rules, practices and public policies directing nonprofit organizations. At the conclusion of this course, you will be expected to:

- 1) understand the legal issues that can arise during the life cycle of a nonprofit, from formation through operation to possible dissolution,
- 2) know the historic underpinnings for today's law of nonprofits and how they impact institutional decisionmaking,
- 3) identify potential ethical pitfalls for nonprofit decision makers,
- 4) understand the interrelation and occasional conflict between federal and state law concerning nonprofits,
- 5) situate nonprofits within today's changing economic conditions.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no bound textbook for this course. Your reading assignment will consist of a series of cases and articles to be distributed at the beginning of the semester as well as materials and news updates to be posted on the TWEN website for this course. Specific readings and assignments for class days will be posted on the TWEN site. For that reason you must go to TWEN and add this course before the semester begins. Any changes in the course will be emailed to you via TWEN, so be sure to check your HUSL email frequently.

We will have periodic guest visitors from the world of nonprofits, and some of them will visit with us via electronic means.

GRADING

Class participation will count 20% of your final course grade. Periodic group and individual assignments will count an additional 20% of your final course grade. The remaining 60% of your final course grade will be based upon either a written exam or a paper, at your choosing.

Class participation will be evaluated at the instructor's discretion based upon quality of class discussion and contribution of helpful ideas, as well as demonstrated preparation for class discussion when called upon. The final examination will be a take-home, self scheduled exam comprehensive of the course and primarily essay with some multiple choice questions. The paper will be a 20 page or so critique of a topic approved in advance by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE AND USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Regular and timely attendance is required for compliance with the attendance policy. Absence for more than four classes is grounds for a student being withdrawn from class. Failure to arrive

before class starts, remain throughout the entire class period, and/or leave class early without prior permission may be counted by the instructor as an absence from class.

Cell phones and pages must be turned off during class. Personal computers may be used for taking notes and accessing material specifically approved by the instructor. Use of a personal computer for other purposes, e.g. surfing the web, checking email, playing electronic games, using chat rooms, is strictly prohibited at all times.