

SOCI 245:01 CBL: Philanthropy and Social Change

Georgetown University

Spring 2012

Instructors: Kathy Kretman, Ph.D., and Luisa Boyarski

Course Description

It would be difficult to name a major social issue in America today that is not the focus of at least one major foundation.

Health care, education, the environment, the needs of children and families, public health, affordable housing, race relations, immigration...in these and many other arenas philanthropy is actively seeking to meet the needs of citizens and communities. But in America and abroad, much of philanthropy aims to do more than meet needs. Assertive philanthropy seeks to create lasting social change. And that, inevitably, requires strategic grant making, community involvement, and support of innovation and public policy engagement.

In this community-based learning course, you will get the opportunity to learn about the impact of philanthropy first hand. You will work with a D.C. community-based nonprofit to identify areas of need and write a grant proposal. Later, you and your classmates will form two foundation boards dedicated to reviewing the grant proposals. This class will give you the chance to experience philanthropy from the perspective of both the grantees and the grant makers, in an effort to build a better understanding of the role of strategic giving in our community and our nation.

Course Objectives

- To examine the history, context and future of philanthropy and the relationship with the nonprofit, government and corporate sectors.
- To explore the role of foundations and nonprofit organizations in creating social change.
- To increase awareness of the Washington, D.C. community; its social and economic conditions; and the response of foundations and nonprofits to the needs of the most vulnerable populations.
- To provide students with a “hands on” experience in grant writing and grant making that will further their understanding of strategic giving for social impact.

Course Directive: The course is primarily developed to serve undergraduate students who

- Are active in the community, and wish to learn more about the organizations in which they serve.
- Expect to play a future role as social change makers, advocates, service providers, philanthropists, or social entrepreneurs.
- Desire to learn more about the relationship between philanthropy, public policy and social change.

Support from the Sunshine Lady Foundation

The grant making portion of the class will be funded through a generous gift of \$10,000 from the Learning by Giving Foundation and \$5,000 from the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation. Students will engage in a “learning-by-doing” philanthropic project involving the disbursement of the grant money to one or more nonprofits in the D.C. community.

To Apply

Email a one-page letter explaining your interest in the course along with an updated resume to Luisa Boyarski at boyarskl@georgetown.edu. **Applications are due by Monday October 24th at 5:00 p.m.** Sophomores, juniors and seniors from all four undergraduate schools will be accepted and notified before pre-registration in November.