MN5821 – MANAGING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Option (20 credits), Semester 2

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AIM: The aims of the module are:

1. To provide an introduction to Third Sector organisations and the challenges they face;
2. To critically examine key issues in the management of these organisations;
3. To develop strong competencies in independent learning on the part of students.

NGOs and other Third Sector organisations are highly significant actors within society, the democratic polity, and the economy. They are also distinctive organisations in certain key respects that set them apart from either public sector organisations or commercial enterprises, and which make them particularly challenging to manage. This module will examine the nature and significance of these organisations and the opportunities and challenges with which they are engaging.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: The teaching format encompasses a mix of graffiti walls, student-led round-table discussions, class plenaries, mini-lectures, case studies, and workshops. Students are expected to supplement these with private study periods. There may be opportunities to hear from guest speakers, including senior managers of voluntary organisations. Other teaching and learning formats. Including TV documentaries and radio programmes, may be employed from time to time.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the module students are expected to have achieved the following outcomes:

Relevant knowledge and understanding:
- awareness of the scale, scope, and significance of the Third Sector;
- awareness of the nature of Third Sector organisations and the extent to which these organisations can be considered distinctive from public sector organisations or commercial enterprises;
- appreciation of the implications of key shifts that are occurring within the external environment in which NGOs are embedded, and of the tensions and choices that these give rise to within these organisations.

Skills and Personal Qualities:
It is anticipated that the module will facilitate the development of the transferable skills and personal qualities identified below. Clearly, the extent to which it does this is heavily dependent upon the effort and commitment of individual students.
• self-motivation;
• personal organisation;
• independent learning (eg., literature search and review, analysis, communication).

INDICATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE: Themes with which the module will engage are expected to include:

• Mapping the sector: definitions, scale, scope, significance
• Origins of the sector
• What makes the sector different?
• Strategic challenges
• Voluntarism
• Ethical matters
• Managing humanitarian NGOs

NB. Topics may change as significant new issues arise.

ASSESSMENT: Assessment will be in two parts:

1. Written assignment – book review (50% of module mark)
2. Written assignment – essay (50% of module mark).

There is no exam for this module.

READING LIST: In keeping with the emphasis placed in this module on independent student-led learning, with the exception of the book that is to be reviewed as part of the assessed coursework, there is no set text for the course and a reading list will not be provided.

Students taking this module are expected to use their initiative in identifying relevant reading material. They should focus mainly upon academic journal articles, research monographs and other academic texts. They are also expected to draw upon relevant government and parliamentary documents, including consultation papers, research briefings, committee papers, and Bills, for example. Other sources of material include professional journals aimed at public policy makers and managers of voluntary organisations. These sources may be supplemented with material drawn from the websites of voluntary organisations themselves.

The Harvard style of referencing must be adhered to in all formal written work associated with this module.

BOOK PURCHASE
Students should refer to the book review coursework assessment for details of the book that they are required to purchase.

Blackwells has been advised that the book is a required text and will have copies available. It is also available from Amazon and other online sources.