

Teaching Evaluation Summary

Colton C. Strawser

Nonprofit Governance

Arkansas Tech University

Course Description

This course examines the theoretical, philosophical, practical and ethical perspectives related to the effective management and leadership of nonprofit organizations in the twenty-first century. Upon completion of the course, the student will possess an understanding of 1) the historical development of the nonprofit sector, 2) the multiple rationales for the existence of the nonprofit sector, 3) the distinctive characteristics of nonprofit organizations, 4) the structures, processes and complexities of organizational governance shared by volunteer board members and professional staff, 5) the dynamic environment of the contemporary nonprofit organization, and 6) the current issues of importance to nonprofit decision makers.

Semester	Number of Students	Instructor Average	College Average
Spring 2018	30	4.64	4.56
Fall 2018	15	5.0	4.63
Spring 2019	TBD	TBD	TBD

*Maximum evaluation scores out of 5.

Student Comments

- “I thoroughly enjoyed this course and I felt that it emphasized what is truly important to living a fulfilled and joyful life. I think that I took away more from this class that I can apply toward a successful career than I have from any other course thus far. The emphasis on integrity and how to be a successful leader are what I found particularly helpful.”
- “The strengths of this course were the information provided. A great foundation was laid in this course in learning about nonprofits. There were ample resources provided for further learning. The instructor was welcoming and available to help.”
- “I have been in the business side of the industry for many years. I have been trained on strategy, marketing mix, and brand marketing principles; but never really thought about how philanthropy could fit into an organization. Professor Strawser's course and assignments has shown me the importance to explore my corporate purpose and to identify one or more areas of concentration that fit my focus areas. Lastly, I am guilty of being busy to the point that I have forgotten what it is all about and that is to serve and support those who need supporters or help -- this course has reignited that in me!”
- “Colton Strawser is well versed in the non-profit world. He created engaging assignments that brought both clarity and knowledge to the subject. It was one of the most enjoyable and professionally applicable courses I have taken at ATU.”

- “Very well organized and easy to follow. Great extra credit opportunities. Provided videos (of him actually talking to us!), which was great considering most instructors do not go that extra mile.”
- “This course opened my eyes to the topic of non profit governance. Before the course, I ha[d] very little knowledge in the subject.”
- “The course was well laid out and easy to understand. The content has been challenging but achievable. Professor was accessible. He communicated when it would be difficult to respond to emails and gave an alternate way to reach him.”
- “I learned a lot in Professor Strawser's class. He is a dedicated instructor and cares about his students success. He is driven in the success of nonprofits and willing to give additional help and knowledge in the area of nonprofits. I am in the process of sending him the paperwork on a nonprofit I have been working on and I am looking forward to his feedback regarding the project.”
- “I really enjoyed this class and feel that I have been able to apply the information that I have learned to my current position.”
- “The strengths of this course were have the ability to look at non-governance from different perspectives. It was nice reading about the subject but what really pushed this course to the top for me was the individual assignment(s) around a philanthropy effort that we wanted to further expand on. I also learned that giving back should be part of everyone's passion to help others. In addition, there's no greater feeling and no greater satisfaction than knowing you're making a difference. I have really enjoyed this class! Thanks to Professor Strawser, I was reminded of what we could not only as an individuals but as a group for our community. In fact, I plan on implementing a non-profit with our school system this upcoming year!”
- “Professor Strawser is such a positive person and I could feel his passion and enthusiasm for the class. It was refreshing!”

Community Development

Arkansas Tech University

Course Description

This course covers the basic principles and issues in community development in the United States. Topics include: the definition of community; community assessment; methods of planning and problem solving; community needs; community assets; and community activism; and evaluating community based organizations. Students will work individually and in groups to design a non-profit organization based on a community needs assessment. The focus will be on assessment, planning, leadership, financing, and evaluating a community-based organization.

Semester	Number of Students	Instructor Average	College Average
Fall 2018	21	4.77	4.63

*Maximum evaluation scores out of 5.

Student Comments

- “The instructor made sure you understood the points before going further.”
- “The strengths of this course were all of the supplemental materials. I also enjoyed the community service aspect.”
- “This course provided me with great insight into the importance of community development.”
- “Was cooperative with the situations that arose with work schedules of the older students”
- “This is the second class that I have had with this professor, he has been very understanding with my situation of having conflicts with my work schedule.”
- “I thought that he was a great instructor. He was readily available and his course work was easy to do.”
- “Easy to work with, great guy. Very understanding and very honest with expectations and understanding of concerns.”

Project Design

Arkansas Tech University

Course Description

This course will provide an opportunity for the student to facilitate a process for identifying a specific problem in an actual industry or business environment relevant to the student's specialty area. The student will outline a formal plan of action for identifying the problem through the development of a needs assessment which identifies deficiencies or areas of improvement needed within the business. At the conclusion, the student will develop a strategic recommended plan of action based on the findings from the empirical research. The student will demonstrate presentation ability, appropriate leadership styles, critical thinking, and communications skills in a formal presentation of the strategic plan to the group responsible for implementing the strategies.

Semester	Number of Students	Instructor Average	College Average
Fall 2018	6	4.60	4.36

*Maximum evaluation scores out of 5.

Student Comments

- “I learned so much from this course and instructor. Very positive and encouraging!”
- “The abundance of examples of what was expected and sample assignments made this course easier to understand.”