



MN5821 – MANAGING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER:	Option (20 credits), Semester 2	
MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:	Professor Tobias Jung	tj3@st-andrews.ac.uk
MODULE LECTURER(S):	Professor Tobias Jung Dr Brendan Whitty	tj3@st-andrews.ac.uk bw205@st-andrews.ac.uk

AIM: The aims of the module are:

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

BACKGROUND

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. The 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 lectures, workshops, student-led round-table discussions, class plenaries, and case studies. Students are also expected to undertake private study. 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.

Students may be required to search out and read literature which is out with their comfort zone and field of interest.

Students should note that there is a degree of fluidity within the class hours of MN5821. While they should be available to attend classes during the scheduled hours (2-5pm), the actual duration of the class will be dependent on the participation of students in discussions, and may vary from week to week. It will not, however, exceed the allotted hours.

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 to which these give rise 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 (e.g. literature search and review, analysis, communication).

INDICATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE:

Themes with which the module will engage may include:

- Origins of the sector
- The nature of the sector
- Strategic challenges
- Management issues

NB. The themes listed above are not definitive, and may change.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment will be in three parts:

- Written assignment – individual essay (50% of module mark)
- Written assignment – group report (20% of module mark) and
- Written assignment – individual submission (30% of the module mark)

Students should refer to the module timetable for the submission dates and times.

READING LIST:

In keeping with the emphasis placed in this module on independent student-led learning, there is no set text for the course and, while pointers to relevant readings will be made, a fixed 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, and news reports. 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.

Organisation of courses may be subject to change without notice.