The nonprofit sector in the United States contains close to two million organizations and is growing rapidly. An estimated 10% of the American workforce is employed in the nonprofit sector, and one in three individuals volunteers. Arguably every individual in the world has been served by a nonprofit or nongovernmental organization at one point in his or her life. Only some of you in this course intend to pursue a professional career in nonprofit management, but all of you – whether as business or arts industry managers, public managers, volunteers or citizens – will interact with the nonprofit sector through your lifetime.

This survey course will provide you with an overview of nonprofit law and managerial operations. The course begins with the legal structure for the sector, and also covers both general management practices that apply to all public and private organizations (marketing, strategic planning, inter-organizational relations, human resources, ethics and financial management) and practices unique to nonprofits (boards and governance, volunteer management, legal responsibilities, fundraising, etc.). The course uses a combination of readings, lectures, and experiential learning to give students daily opportunities to test their textbook material in the real world.

Expected learning outcomes for this course include:

- An understanding of the major managerial and performance expectations of nonprofit organizations
- An understanding of the process for creating a legally recognized nonprofit organization
- Knowledge of nonprofit management methods and practices
- An understanding of laws and standards applicable to nonprofit organizations
- Experience in analyzing management dilemmas and proposing responses
- An understanding of effective team dynamics
- An opportunity to ask questions of nonprofit professionals as guest speakers
- An ability to write a professional style memo about nonprofit management practices