

**Successful Non-profits and Foundations in Indian Country**  
**MPA Elective ~ 2 Credits**  
**Spring 2015**

**May 8 (5pm-9pm); May 9-10 (9am-5pm)**  
**SEM II D 3107**

**FACULTY**

Faculty	Email / Phone	Office & Office Hours
Jenny Serpa	<a href="mailto:serpaj@evergreen.edu">serpaj@evergreen.edu</a>	By Appointment

**TESC MPA MISSION STATEMENT**

Our students, faculty and staff create learning communities to explore and implement socially just, democratic public service. We think critically and creatively; communicate effectively; work collaboratively; embrace diversity; we value fairness and equity; advocate powerfully on behalf of the public; and imagine new possibilities to accomplish positive change in our workplaces and in our communities.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Successful Non-profits and Foundations in Indian Country is an elective course of the MPA program. This course will explore the definitions of “success” and key elements of building collaborative partnerships and organizational accountability to service communities. We will also explore non-profit and foundation start-up, laws, and jurisdiction issues related to operation in Indian Country. As a class we will review the history of foundations and non-profits in Indian Country and examine the unique legal situation of Tribes who, as a government, can operate as or generate non-profits and foundations. Although the course content will be focused on organizations serving Indian Country, the principles covered in class are applicable for all organizations serving distinct communities.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Be able to differentiate and articulate the relationship between Tribal Governments, Tribal Entities, and Native-Led or Native serving organizations;
- Further develop an understanding of Indian Country
- Be able to situate grassroots techniques in community building, management, and public policy;
- Develop understanding of the economic importance of Non-profits and Foundations, particularly for communities and economic development plans

## READINGS

No book is required for class. Readings will be posted to Canvas.

- Context is Everything (45 pages)
- IRS Tax Code 7871 (3 pages)
- Charitable and Sovereign (28 pages)
- Guide of Planning (93 pages)
- Native Voices Rising (11 pages)
- *Additional articles, newspaper clippings, etc posted to Canvas or handed out in class TBA.*

## EXPECTATIONS

**Format of Assignment Submissions:** All papers will be submitted to instructor by email on their due date. All papers must meet assignment parameters and cite works using the American Psychological Association (APA) citation format (check OWL Purdue!). All written work will be of high quality, grammatically correct, clear and without spelling errors. Unless otherwise noted, all papers should: contain the date and assignment name & #; contain the name of the student (and their partners on any team assignments); be double-spaced (unless noted); and be size 12, readable font. If you require it, please request resource writing assistance from faculty and/or contact the MPA Writing Assistant. Check assignment details for each submission.

**Late assignments:** Turning in assignments late is unacceptable. If you have a need to turn in an assignment late you must contact your faculty no later than the original assignment due date to discuss options. Parameters are left to the discretion of the faculty on a situation-by-situation basis. Late assignments must be completed by May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to ensure course credit.

**Participation & Attendance:** Students are required to attend each class meeting. Participation includes focusing on class content, speaking in class and seminar, listening to others, taking notes, completing class interactive exercises, avoiding distractions, and listening to and dialoging with the guest speakers. If an absence is unavoidable, seminar faculty must be notified prior to a class and/or seminar absence. Since we only meet for one weekend, it is *very* important that you make all meeting times. Any absence/severe tardiness and make-up work may be assigned at faculty discretion, case-by-case. Makeup work must be completed by the deadline offered by the faculty to receive course credit. Missing significant amount of class time will result in a No Credit.

**Guest Policy:** Guests are welcome to visit our learning community during class time and seminar meetings with discretionary approval from course faculty in advance of the requested visit. It is the host student's responsibility to contact the faculty with details about the requested guest visit and await approval. Guests must abide by all expectations.

**Learning Styles:** Faculty will actively work toward providing information in multiple formats: auditory, visual, kinesthetic, etc. However, style applications are limited to means appropriate for the classroom environment. (Activities such as surfing the internet, reading unrelated materials, playing with a PDA, tablet, IPOD, laptop, or cell phone are not appropriate.) Consult your seminar faculty to discuss learning style options or personal challenges.

**Credit:** Students will receive 2 graduate credits at the completion of the quarter if all course requirements have been satisfactorily completed to meet course objectives. No partial credit will be awarded. Incompletes (INC) may be offered on case-by-case basis. Refer to MPA student handbook (<http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/studenthandbook/home.htm>). Plagiarism (i.e., using other peoples' work as your own), failing to complete one or more assignments, completing one or more assignments late (without having made arrangements before the due date), or multiple absences may constitute denial of total credit. At the discretion of the faculty, unexcused absences or lack of academic work may result in no credit received (NCR). Students will also be evaluated based upon their progress towards the learning goals that will be assessed from classroom, seminar, and assignment performance.

**Evaluation:** Written self-evaluations and a faculty evaluation are required for credit at the end of each quarter, along with faculty evaluations of students. Student evaluations of their faculty are due the Monday of evaluation week. (Students may elect to submit faculty evaluations after their Student Eval).

**Accommodations:** are provided for any student who desires them through a working relationship with Access Services, the Writing Center and the Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning Center. To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the office of Access Services for Students with Disabilities (867-6348 or 6364). Information about a disability or health condition will be regarded as confidential. Please refer to TESC's Students With Disabilities Policy: <http://www.evergreen.edu/policies/g-studentada.htm>

**Other Expectations of Students and Faculty:** to promote a cooperative, supportive atmosphere within the community; give everyone opportunity for self-reflection and expression; use high standards in reading the text and preparing our papers, lectures, and comments in seminar; handle all disputes in a spirit of goodwill; discuss any problems involving others in the learning community directly with the individuals involved. We abide by the social contract

(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=174-121-010>), the student conduct code (<http://www.evergreen.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct.htm>) and the non-discrimination policies and procedures at TESC (<http://www.evergreen.edu/policies/g-nondiscr.htm>). All students are expected to support and contribute to a well-functioning MPA classroom learning community. Behavior that disrupts the learning community may be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the MPA program.

**Multiculturalism & Diversity:** Faculty and students will actively work towards contextually weaving multiculturalism and diversity throughout our learning as related to readings, lectures, seminar, workshops, and group projects.

**Inclement Weather:** In the event of bad weather or emergencies students should check for announcements of campus closures. Students can check TV, radio, or call the main campus line 867-6000 to get the latest news regarding a campus closure or delay. Since many students in the program travel from relatively distant locations, faculty may decide to cancel class even if campus is open. If we do this we will send an all-program email prior to 3:00 pm. You are responsible for checking your email.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### Seminar Papers & Questions

Seminar papers are a place for you to “digest” the reading material. What is the author trying to tell you? Try to understand the important points, the line of reasoning, and its applicability to your work &/or the world. Think about the work critically – are there flaws or bias in the work? For comparative seminars (two or more readings), be sure to compare and contrast the different points. See “Template of Analyzing the Logic of an Article” if you need help. Additionally, **include critically reflective questions about the readings at the end of your seminar papers.**

**PRE – CLASS Submit by email before May 5th**

#### #1 Student Professional Bio (1 paragraph)

This is a simple one-paragraph introduction. Write it as a professional biography (i.e. third person). If you feel it is necessary you may expand to 2 paragraphs, but no more.

#### #2 Context is Everything (2 pages)

#### #3 Charitable and Sovereign & IRS Code 7871 (2 pages)

## **May 12 Tuesday**

### **#4 Review of a Non-Profit or Foundation of Your Choice (Individual): (4-7 pages)**

Choose a non-profit or foundation that you know intimately or that has a lot of information online. Explore the topics and issues covered in class and write a review of the organization. Review the organization questions to consider:

1. What is the organization's mission?
2. Who does the organization serve?
3. How does the organization define success?
4. Who is on the Board of Directors?
5. How are the BOD selected?
6. Does the community served have opportunities to give input on program design, leadership, organizational operation, or the definition of success?
7. If you were hired to be the Executive Director tomorrow, what would you do (if anything), how and why?

## **BREIF WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic / Activities</b>	<b>Readings Discussed</b>
Friday May 8  5-9pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• What is "Indian Country"?</li><li>• Non-profits and Foundations Defined</li><li>• Workshop</li></ul>	Context is everything Article(s) TBA
Saturday May 9  9am-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The State of Non-profits and Foundations in Indian Country</li><li>• A Unique Situation - 7871</li><li>• Sovereignty Considerations</li><li>• Workshop – Structure</li><li>• What is Success?</li></ul>	Charitable & Sovereign IRS Code 7871 Article(s) TBA
Sunday May 10  9am-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Context is Everything</li><li>• Workshop – Success / Community Process &amp; Buy-in</li><li>• Seminar – Guide for Planning</li><li>• Guest Speaker(s)</li><li>• Examples / Student Presentations</li><li>• Summary</li></ul>	Guide for Planning Native Voices Rising