Questions this Course will Consider:

► How do early issues in American politics resonate in today’s debates concerning the non profit sector within the United States and the role of this sector in U.S. foreign assistance programs?
► Why is the civil society and non governmental sector clustered as one if the organizations within it represent such a wide range of activities?
► Why were the post-civil war era in the USA and the 1980s internationally especially auspicious moments for the growth of the non profit sector?
► How does the non profit sector in the U.S. differ from that of other countries?
► Why have some argued that the non governmental sector is a Western construction?
► Presidential Candidate George W. Bush famously said about his Democratic opponent, “I’m worried about an opponent who uses nation building and the military in the same sentence.” What did he mean and why did his position shift?
► What have been the Obama/(H.R.)Clinton strategies for the non governmental sector in foreign affairs? What is the logic of their strategies (on what theories do they base their policy initiatives)? What do the critics counter and why?
► What are some of the most difficult challenges of running a non profit organization in the United States? In a late industrializing country?
Students are required to attend and participate in class, to do assignments, and to attend any scheduled talks or movies. If you travel with a dance troupe or sports club and expect occasionally to miss a class or a speaker, please advise the professor in writing in advance of your absence (electronically is fine).

Grades will be based on the following:
Comparative Essay - 20%
Memo - 20%
Political Essay - 20%
Final Exam Research Project - 20%
General participation including cases, movies, group participation, postings, attending assigned lectures and events, and class participation (note: you cannot participate in class, if you do not attend class; students working in groups will offer advisory grades on the work of their team members) – 20%

If you do not complete any one of your assignments, regardless of your grades on other assignments, you will not have completed the requirements for passing this course. You will be eligible to receive a "no entry" grade.

Readings:
We will be reading all of: Peter Willetts, Nongovernmental Organizations in World Politics (London and New York: Routledge, 2011). The rest of your readings are not from a single book. Rather, your readings consist of articles or chapters of books that are electronically available on Blackboard. Relevant links and videos also can also be found through Blackboard.

Mudd library has books and journals as well as government documents and memoirs, etc. that you may consult for your research. A reference librarian will be meeting with us for an in-depth research skill building session during the semester.

You are responsible for the information in the readings when you enter class on the day the readings are listed on the syllabus.

Please familiarize yourself with the Oberlin Honor Code which guides your work in this, and in all, your classes.
http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html
We will discuss plagiarism – theft of another person’s property - in class when discuss your first writing assignment.
Tuesday September 4, 2012 Introductory Class:
Faculty presents an overview of this course and assignments
Students discuss their background and any personal experiences in NGOs.

Section One: Situating NGOs in the Democracy Debates

Thursday September 6, 2012 What is an NGO?
► Consider whether Nongovernmental Organizations have “legitimacy?”
► Are NGOs “democratic?”
► Why are NGOs deemed unimportant to orthodox approaches to international relations?

Tuesday September 11, 2012 NGOs and Civil Society

►Discussion about writing a Comparative Essay

Section Two: Supra-National Access to Decision Making

Thursday September 13, 2012 – NGOs and United Nations participation.

Evening in Finney Chapel: 7:30 pm
Convocation: Duffy, Baker, Fouhy, & Belman National top journalists discuss the 2012 election.

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Friday, September 14th. Amy Goodman, a journalist and host of Democracy Now!, a radio program that covers political issues and attempts to look at less prominent perspectives on the issues at hand, will be speaking on campus.

Tuesday September 18, 2012 (second day of Rosh Hashana)-
International Law and NGOs


Section Three: NGOs and Direct Communications to Other Organizations and to Individuals

Thursday September 20, 2012 – NGOs, the Internet, and Global Politics

Friday September 21, 2012 Comparative Essay due at 5 P.M.

Tuesday September 25, 2012 – Understanding the Place of NGOs in Global Politics


Wednesday is Yom Kippur-- no Oberlin College classes. 
(Yom Kippur begins Tuesday night September 25, 2012)

Thursday September 27, 2012- The Creation of Global Governance

Tuesday October 2, 2012 - Understanding the Debates Concerning the Roles of State and Civil Society


Instructions for Writing a Memo

Section Four: Foreign Assistance and NGOs

Thursday October 4, 2012 - Development from the Bottom Up


Chapter Two, “The Core Elements of Community and Nation Building: The American Debate” pp. 29-45;

Tuesday October 9, 2012 - Foreign Aid Bureaucrats and Policy

Chapter Four, “From Aid Bureaucracy to Civil Society: Participation and Partnership” pp. 74-96.

President George W. Bush excerpt on “nation building.”
Thursday October 11, 2012 — Islamic States and Civil Society

► Faculty member presents background on the Muslim Kingdom of Morocco for Tuesday’s readings.

Tuesday October 15, 2012 Memo Assignment Due: Foreign Assistance for Civil Society?

Tuesday October 16, 2012 – The Advancement of Civil Society in the Muslim Kingdom of Morocco the 1980s
Discussion of: James N. Sater, Civil Society and Political Change in Morocco (London and New York: Routledge, 2007)


Thursday October 18, 2012: Resourcing Non Profits


Tuesday October 20 -28, 2012 is fall recess
During the fall recess, the Presidential Debate on Foreign Policy will take place.
Listen for any references to civil society, non profits, nation building, etc.

Tuesday October 30, 2012- Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the role of non governmental organizations in U.S. Diplomacy

► Instructions for Writing a Political Essay

Thursday November 1, 2012 – Comparatives Roles of Non Profit Sector

Excerpt from: Chapter Two: “How the History of the Non Profit Sector in the United States Differs from That of Other Countries” (Britain, Canada, Australia, France and Germany) pp. 29-35.


Tuesday November 6, 2012- Class Discussion of How Non Profits are Affecting U.S. National Elections – PACs, Unions, Churches, etc.

TODAY is the National Election, Do Not Forget to Vote!

Thursday November 8, 2012 - Public speaking exercise – six students

Tuesday November 13, 2012- Public speaking exercise- five students

Thursday November 15, 2012- Public speaking exercise- five students

Friday November 16, 2012 Political Essay Assignment Due
Tuesday November 20, 2012 - **Overview of Non Profits in the United States**


► **Discussion of Research Assignment- for Library Work**

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**Thursday November 22, 2012 Happy Thanksgiving!!**

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Tuesday November 27, 2012 - **Library Session with Meagan Mitchell, reference librarian and social sciences research expert.**
You will meet in the Science Center on the first floor in the Science Library computer lab.

**Thursday November 29, 2012 - Follow-Up Research Day**

Tuesday December 4, 2012
**Discussion of: Helmut K Anheier, Nonprofit Organizations Theory, management, policy** (London and New York: Routledge, 2005)


**Thursday December 6, 2012 - Discussion of 1) Research Projects and 2) Lists and Resources for domestic and international non profits**

Tuesday December 11, 2012 – **Local NGOs in Lorain County, Ohio**

**Brian Frederick, President/CEO, Community Foundation of Lorain County**

**Thursday December 13, 2012 - Wrap Up and Course evaluation.**