

Social Economy and Enterprise Academy – Summer 2021

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This syllabus contains important information concerning the course; please read it very carefully. It will serve as a general resource to guide you through the process. If you have any questions at any time, please ask so there are no misunderstandings or unpleasant surprises. Please note that this syllabus is a contract between the student and advisors.

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this class is to connect students with nonprofit organizations from the Houston area to identify areas for social innovation and welfare opportunities for the nonprofits. We aim to offer them new processes, access to financing, innovative solutions for their core activities from a social economy and public policy perspective, to meet their social goals.

Students will work in groups with a pre-selected group of nonprofit organizations under the guidance of a graduate TA and faculty. Students will work closely with the leadership of one organization as consultants to develop a social enterprise idea, conduct quantitative research and create a venture plan. The program combines teamwork, expert training, and individualized coaching in a comprehensive approach to help develop successful social enterprises.

Students will be assigned to groups and must meet once or twice a week with their assigned TA and faculty as well as with members of the assigned nonprofit. You will have to submit progress reports and a final report as stated below.

There will be a final event in which every group will make a presentation of the report. We are planning to give an award for the best project to be judged by the community members and faculty participating at the event.

Presentation and Final Report

At the end of the semester you will be required to give a formal oral presentation of your results. The purpose of the formal oral presentation is to present the results of your research project clearly and comprehensively, and it will be evaluated on both its content, its coherency and delivery. Presentations will take place in a final event followed by a reception. Everybody is required to attend all presentations.

In your final draft, you will report on the results of your project following some guidelines that will be provided by the instructors. You are required to provide an electronic copy of your final paper via e-mail.

Learning Outcomes

Effective Communication. By identifying business opportunities, conducting market research, developing business plans through the class and effectively communicating results during the end of the semester presentation students will be able to demonstrate the ability to adapt their communication and interaction with others to address industry-relevant issues and produce professional outputs/deliverables.

Problem Solving. Using their analytical skills and critical thinking students will be able to provide solutions and generate new ideas.

Social Responsibility. Students will also be able to demonstrate a solid work ethic, professionalism and think critically about the implications of business choices and policy in a public/social service setting.

Teamwork. The students will work in teams of 3 to 5. Group work will help students to better articulate their ideas and question the ideas of others, which will help them generate possible solutions to problems. Students can expect to spend a large part of their careers working in groups, whether in committees or project teams. Employers need good team workers and better social skills will increase students' employability.

Grading

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 20% Attendance (including meetings with TA's, nonprofits and faculty as scheduled)
- 30% Progress Reports (10% each)
- 25% Oral presentation
- 25% Final Report

The course deadlines are designed to keep you on track with your project and to help you complete the course in a satisfactory and timely manner. LATE SUBMISSIONS are not acceptable.

Meetings

Once the groups of students are formed and nonprofits are assigned (June 10th), the group begins to meet regularly. There are three different type of meetings. First, are the ones in which students participate to work together, these will be the most common. Second, students must meet with the representatives of the assigned nonprofits, these have to be coordinated on June 10th, depending on the nature of the project these can be once or twice a week. Third, students must meet with the TA at least once a week. The TA will help students and answer questions on the methods and the implementation of the project, the presentation, etc. Finally, on the Fridays following the deadline for the presentation of the progress reports the students and TA must meet with faculty *by Zoom* to discuss the progress, obtain feedback and ask questions.

Important dates

Date	Meeting/Assignment
Monday, June 7th, 11 am	Lecture 1
Tuesday, June 8th, 11 am	Lecture 2
Wednesday, June 9th, 2 pm	Lecture 3
Thursday, June 10th, 5:30 pm	Cases and Meeting Nonprofits
Thursday, June 17th, 11:59 pm	Progress Report 1: Project Proposal and Plan of Action (identify data and methods)
Thursday, June 24th, 11:59 pm	Progress Report 2: Preliminary results
Thursday, July 2nd, 11:59 pm	Progress Report 3: Final Results. Submission of Slides for Presentation
Wednesday, July 7 th , 5:30pm	Final Event: Presentations and Reception
Friday, July 9 th , 5:00 pm	Submission of Final Report (by e-mail)

Outline of Lecture

Lecture 1: *The Basics of the Social Economy and The Role of Nonprofits*

Part 1 (1.5 hours, Pablo M. Pinto)

- Social goals, collective action, and the scope of the social economy
- Nonprofits, their goals, and fundamental problems they face

Part 2 (1.5 hours, German Cubas)

- Facts and the main characteristics of the sector in the US

Lecture 2: *Measuring the Impact of Social Economy Projects and Social Economy Venture Plans*

Part 1 (1.5 hours, German Cubas)

- Formulation and Evaluation Social Economy Projects: Impact Rate of Return, VANS, Impact

Part 2 (1.5 hours, Pablo M. Pinto)

-Nonprofit Business and Social Economy Plan

Lecture 3: *Use of Data and Econometric Methods*

(3 hours, Ruxandra Boul)

- Review of the Regression Analysis
- Introduction to Forecasting
- Introduction to Impact Evaluation: Difference-in-Difference, Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT), etc.

Lecture 4:

Part 1 (1.5 hours, German Cubas, Pablo M. Pinto and Ruxandra Boul)

- Cases and Homework

Part 2 (1.5 hours, Nonprofits Representatives)

-Nonprofit Cases and Group Student Assignment

University Policies

Students with disabilities. College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to students who request them. Students seeking accommodation must register with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) 713-743-5400 and present approved documentation to me as soon as possible.

Honor code. We take UH Academic Honesty Policy very seriously. Any students who are suspected (with reasonable evidence) of cheating or who are found to have plagiarized or misrepresented their work will be given a failing grade for the task. In this course, such actions will likely earn the student a failing grade for the course (which will not be changed to a NCR grade). Remember, the integrity and reputation of your own work depends on the honesty of the entire UH academic community. For the complete UH Academic Honesty Policy please see <http://www.uh.edu/academic-honesty-undergraduate>.

Student conduct policy CLASS students are expected to abide by the University of Houston's Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uh.edu/dos/behavior-conduct/student-code-of-conduct/>

Counseling and psychological services Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

Excused absence policy. Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

Incompletes. The official policy on incompletes, from the Undergraduate Catalog, states that the grade of "I" is given "when students a) are currently passing a course or b) still have a reasonable hope of passing in the judgment of the instructor, but for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements." A student with an F average who would have to get a 100 on the final to pass does not have a "reasonable hope" of passing; a student who has already missed exams or papers and is also unable to take the final exam or complete a final paper is NOT missing only a "relatively small part" of the requirements. Finally, having a lot of work to do is not a "non-academic" reason beyond the student's control.

Sexual misconduct policy. In accordance with the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. More information can be found on the Title IX website at: <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexualmisconduct/resources/>