

## HI6100: NGOS AND THE MAKING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY WORLD



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### MODULE FORMAT

We will meet online every week (Mondays, 4-6pm) for a two-hour discussion session in which we tackle a different thematic issue or case study – all the time using the history of NGOs to help us unlock some of the key concepts that shaped the twentieth century world. The prescribed sources will be our jumping off point to

debate, discuss, question and critique the week's topic. Additional readings are provided for students who wish to delve deeper into a particular topic.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the twentieth century NGOs emerged as one of the key building blocks of the modern world. This module will engage students in a series of discussions and debates on the role of those organisations in re-shaping culture, society and politics. We will examine the role of NGOs in the creation of a transnational civil society, in re-defining citizenship and the state, and in the 'professionalisation' of our everyday lives, as well as analysing their impact on issues of governance and the organisation of the twentieth century world. We will do so by examining some of the key issues addressed by NGOs, along with the key questions that they raised. How did NGOs operate? How should we study them? What can they tell us about the growing inter-connectedness of the modern world? In answering those questions this module will also introduce students to the historiography, key concepts and methodologies in the study of transnational action.

The module is divided into four parts. In the first section, 'Ideas', we will look at some of the core concepts that help us to understand how NGOs shaped society in the twentieth century. The second part, 'Examples', examines four case studies of NGOs in action and how they changed how people understood and related to the world around them. In the third section, 'Consequences', we will debate the outcomes (good and bad) that the rise

of NGOs had on civil society in the twentieth century. The final two seminars will focus on student research and discussing how you have brought the ideas from the module into your own research projects.

## SEMINAR TOPICS

<b>Introduction</b>	
<i>Seminar 1</i>	Introduction: What is an NGO?
<b>Ideas</b>	
<i>Seminar 2</i>	The 'century of NGOs'
<i>Seminar 3</i>	Making citizens
<i>Seminar 4</i>	The rise of the 'expert'
<b>Examples</b>	
<i>Seminar 5</i>	Global villagers? Humanitarianism and its consequences
<i>Seminar 6</i>	Putting the world to rights: NGOs and civil and human rights
<i>Seminar 7</i>	Global civil society? NGOs in the Global South
<i>Seminar 8</i>	Global community: NGOs and the UN
<i>Seminar 9</i>	Middle class radicals: NGOs and the environment
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<i>Seminar 10</i>	Hurling alone? NGOs, volunteering and civil society
<i>Seminar 11</i>	Governing the twentieth century world
<b>Projects</b>	
<i>Seminar 12</i>	Student-led workshop

## ASSESSMENT

10% = Participation in seminars  
 20% = Review essay  
 20% = Presentation  
 50% = Final Essay