

WWS 325/AMS 350 -- Civil Society and Public Policy
Spring, 2004

Syllabus

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Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20 p.m.
Robertson Hall

This is a course designed to introduce undergraduate students to the remarkable resurgence of attention to the associational and voluntary sector which Alexis de Tocqueville identified a century and a half ago as the distinctive characteristic of American society. For the past twenty years or so, increasing interest in this sector has been displayed by politicians and scholars, and the sector has come to be praised on all sides. Alas, it has not been understood as much as it has been admired. Furthermore, the end of the Cold War and the collapse of most socialist states has led to international enthusiasm for the building of civil society by means of voluntary non-profit activity, in the belief that strong civil societies would promote democracy. The real question is which comes first, civil society or democracy.

We will begin by closely examining the concepts of civil society and social capital – civil society as it has been redefined since the end of the Cold War, and social capital as it have been developed by Robert Putnam and other social scientists. We will then focus on the network of institutions called the Third (or not-for-profit) Sector, in order to see how Americans organize themselves in the space between the state and the market. Finally, we will contrast American behavior with that in other societies, notably of the formerly socialist nations. The problematic of the course will be to see whether there is such a thing as social capital (or social trust), and, if so, whether social capital builds civil society and democracy.

The course will meet once a week in a seminar format. There will be a reading assignment for each week, often a single monograph. I do not expect students to read the entirety of any of these works (and I will identify essential chapters), but I do want them to begin to learn how to deal with a book –reading parts in full, skimming others. The basic course requirement is to write a research paper on a topic to be determined in discussion with me. The alternative of an examination will be available for those whose theses and JPs make another writing assignment too difficult.

Books required for purchase are available at Micawber's Bookstore. They contain everything assigned for reading in the schedule below. The only exceptions are the assignments of the final two weeks, which will be available on reserve in the Woodrow Wilson School's Stokes Library in Wallace Hall.

Readings required for purchase:

Thomas Bender, Community and Social Change in America
(Rutgers U., 1978)

Bob Edwards, Michael W. Foley and Mario Diani, eds., Beyond Tocqueville:
Civil Society and the Social Capital Debate in Comparative Perspective
(Tufts: University Press of New England, 2001)

John Ehrenberg, Civil Society: The Critical History of an Idea (NYU Press, 1999)

Virginia A. Hodgkinson and Michael W. Foley, eds., The Civil Society Reader
(Tufts: University Press of New England, 2003)

Robert D. Putnam, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,
(Simon & Schuster, 2000)

Ken Thomson, From Neighborhood to Nation: The Democratic Foundations of Civil
Society (Tufts: University Press of New England, 2001)

Mark R. Warren, Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Revitalize Democracy
(Princeton University Press, 2002)

Reading Assignments:

4 February: Civil Society and Democracy: Introduction
Hodgkinson and Foley, eds., The Civil Society Reader, pp. 113-202
Alexis de Tocqueville
John Dewey
Antonio Gramsci

11 February: Civil Society: History
John Ehrenberg, Civil Society: The Critical History of an Idea (NYU Press,
1999)

18 February: Civil Society and Politics
Edwards, Foley and Diani, Beyond Tocqueville, pp. 17-96
Keith Whittington
Sheri Berman
John Booth and Patricia Richard
Kent Portney and Jeffrey Berry
William Maloney, Graham Smith and Gerry Stoker

25 February: Deferred until the Reading Period

3 March: How Civil Society Makes Democracy Work

Hodgkinson and Foley, eds., pp. 234-347

Benjamin Barber
 Sara Evans and Harry Boyte
 Jean Cohen and Andrew Arato
 Edward Shils
 Michael Walzer
 Robert Putnam
 Bellah, Madsen, Sullivan, Swidler and Tipton

10 March: What's So Great about Civil Society?

Robert D. Putnam, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, (Simon & Schuster, 2000)

17 March: Spring Break

26 March: Social Capital Reconsidered

Edwards, Foley and Diani, eds., pp. 221-280

Kenneth Newton
 Andrew Greeley
 Youniss, Mclellan and Yates
 Richard Wood
 Foley, Edwards and Diani

31 March: Civil Society and Community in the U.S., I

Thomas Bender, Community and Social Change in America (Rutgers U., 1978)

7 April: Civil Society in the U.S., II

Ken Thomson, From Neighborhood to Nation: The Democratic Foundations of Civil Society (Tufts: University Press of New England, 2001)

14 April: Civil Society in the U.S., III

Mark R. Warren, Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Revitalize Democracy (Princeton University Press, 2002)

21 April: Civil Society and Engagement

Edwards, Foley and Diani, eds., pp. 139-218

Stolle and Rochon
 Carla Eastis
 Mark Warren
 Debra Minkoff
 Debra Minkoff
 Jackie Smith
 Mario Diani

28 April: Civil Society in Emerging Democracies

Stanley Katz, "Constitutionalism and Civil Society"

Hodgkinson and Foley, eds., Adam Michnik, pp. 203-212

3 May: Deferred class: Global Civil Society

Kaldor, Anheier and Glasius, eds., Global Civil Society, pp. 3-33, 45-55

Books on reserve in Stokes Library, WWS:

Adam Seligman, The Problem of Trust (Princeton University Press, 1997)

Nancy Bermeo and Philip Nord (eds.) Civil Society before Democracy: Lessons from Nineteenth-Century Europe (Lanham, MD, 2000)

Bob Edwards, Michael W. Foley and Mario Diani, eds. Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and Social Capital in Comparative Perspective, (Tufts U., 2001)

Francis Fukuyama, Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity (Free Press, 1996)

Ernest Gellner, Conditions of Liberty: Civil Society and its Rivals (Penguin, 1996)

John K. Glenn, Framing Democracy: Civil Society and Civic Movements in Eastern Europe (Stanford, 2001)

Michael Hanagan, and Charles Tilly (eds.), Extending Citizenship, Reconfiguring States (Lanham, MD, Rowman & Littlefield, 1999).

Paul Hirst, Associative Democracy: New Forms of Economic and Social Governance (U. Massachusetts, 1994)

John Keane, Civil Society: Old Images, New Visions (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998).

Kevin Mattson, Creating a Democratic Public: The Struggle for Urban Participatory Democracy During the Progressive Era Penn State U., 1998)

Henry Milner, Civic Literacy: How Informed Citizens Make Democracy Work (Tufts University Press, 2002)

Robert D. Putnam, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2000)

_____, Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton, NJ, 1993)

_____, and Lewis M. Feldstein, Better Together: Restoring the American Community (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2003)

Nancy Rosenblum and Robert C. Post, eds., Civil Society and Government (Princeton, NJ, 2002)

Robert Rotberg, ed., "Patterns of Social Capital: Stability and Change in Comparative Perspective," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 29: nos. 3 and 4, Winter and Spring 1999. (Two entire issues)

Michael Schudson, The Good Citizen: A History of American Civic Life (New York: Martin Kessler Books, 1998)

Theda Skocpol, and Morris P. Fiorina (eds.), Civic Engagement in American Democracy (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press and New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 1999)

Lester M. Salamon, Partners in Public Service: Government-Nonprofit Relations in the Modern Welfare State (Johns Hopkins U., 1995)

Rogers Smith, Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History (New Haven, CT, 1997)

Frank Trentmann, (ed.), Paradoxes of Civil Society: New Perspectives on Modern German and British History (New York, NY: Bergahn Books, 2000)

Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Schlozman, Henry E. Brady, Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics (Harvard U., 1995)

Mark E. Warren, Democracy and Association (Princeton, NJ, 2001)

_____, (ed.), Democracy and Trust (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Robert Wuthnow, Loose Connections : Joining Together in America's Fragmented Communities (Cambridge, Mass, 1998)