

WWS/AMS 468 -- Civil Society in the United States and Other Places
Spring, 2003

Syllabus

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Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20 p.m.
Robertson Hall 011

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.

Monographs required for purchase are available at Micawber's Bookstore. They include all those assigned for weekly readings in the schedule below. There will also be a reader for the course containing required materials, at Pequod in the University Store. Some further materials will be available as e-reserves in Stokes Library.

Readings required for purchase:

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

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

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:

(Note: except for the books required for purchase, all other assignments are either in the course reader or on e-reserve in the Stokes Library)

5 February: Civil Society and Democracy: Introduction

Stanley N. Katz, "Constitutionalism and Civil Society;" Reader: selections from Alexis de Tocqueville.

12 February: Civil Society: History and Theory, I

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

19 February: Civil Society: History and Theory, II

Reader: Diamond, Whittington, Foley, Alexander.

26 February: How Civil Society Makes Democracy Work

Reader: Tarrow, Krishna, Portes; Reserve: Whittington

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

Reader: Chambers, Marangudakis; Reserves: Berman, Portes

12 March: Putnam Revisited

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

19 March: Spring Break

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

Thomas Bender, Community and Social Change in America

(Rutgers U., 1978)

2 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)

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

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

16 April: Civil Society in Other Places

Reader: Dilla, Lewis, Tismaneanu, Howard, Rothstein; Reserves: Fukayama

23 April: Global Civil Society, global democracy

Reader: Scholte, Keane, Anheier

30 April: Conclusions

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)

Don Eberly, (ed.),. The Essential Civil Society Reader: Classic Essays in the American Civil Society Debate. (Rowman & Littlefield, 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, 2000)

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)

E-reserves at Stokes Library, WWS:

Alejandro Portes, "Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology," Annual Review of Sociology 24: 1-24 (1998).

Sidney Tarrow,. "Making Social Science Work Across Space and Time: A Critical Reflection on Robert Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*," American Political Science Review 90: 389-397 (1996)

Sheri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," World Politics 49 (3): 401-429 (1997)

Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton U., 1993), Chp. 4 (pp. 82-120) and Chp. 6 (pp.163-185)

Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Schlozman, Henry E. Brady, Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics (Harvard U., 1995), Chp. 9 (pp. 267-287) and Chp. 13 (pp.369-390)

Francis Fukuyama, Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity (Free Press, 1996), Part I, Chps. 1-6 (pp.3-57)

Table of Contents from WWS 468 Reader:

1. Katz, "Constitutionalism and Civil Society"
2. de Tocqueville, "Political Association in the United States" in *Democracy in America*
3. de Tocqueville, "How the Americans Combat the Effects of Individualism by Free Institutions" in *Democracy in America*
4. Diamond, "Rethinking Civil Society" in *Journal of Democracy*
5. Whittington, "Revisiting Tocqueville's America" in *Beyond Tocqueville*
6. Foley, "The Paradox of Civil Society" in *Journal of Democracy*
7. Alexander, "Civil Society I, II, III" in *Real Civil Societies*
8. Ahrne, "Civil Society and Uncivil Organizations" in *Real Civil Societies*

9. Dilla, "The Virtues and Misfortunes of Civil Society in Cuba" in *Latin American Perspectives*
10. Lewis, "Civil Society in African Contexts: Reflections on the Usefulness of a Concept" in *Development and Change*
11. Howard, "The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society" in *Journal of Democracy*
12. Tismaneanu, "Civil Society, Pluralism, and the Future of East and Central Europe" in *Social Research*
13. Rothstein, "Social Capital in the Social Democratic Welfare State" in *Politics & Society*
14. Marangudakis, "New Social Movements: Between Civil Society and Communitarianism" in *Sociological Spectrum*
15. Scholte, "Civil Society and Democracy in Global Governance" in *Global Governance*
16. Keane, "Global Civil Society? A New Cosmology" in *Global Civil Society*
17. Anheier, "Introducing Global Civil Society" in *Global Civil Society*
18. Tarrow, "Making Social Science Work Across Space and Time: A Critical Reflection on Robert Putnam's Making Democracy Work" in *American Political Science Review*
19. Krishna, "Enhancing Political Participation in Democracies" in *Comparative Political Studies*
20. Chambers, "Bad Civil Society" in *Political Theory*