

WWS 468 -- Civil Society in the United States and Other Places
Spring, 2002

Syllabus

Prof. Stanley N. Katz
428 Robertson Hall
Ph: 258-5637
snkatz@princeton.edu

Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20 p.m.
Robertson Hall 035

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, generally a single monograph. I do not expect students to read the entirety of any of these works, 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 on Nassau St. They include all those assigned for weekly readings in the schedule below.

Reading Assignments:

6 February: Stanley N. Katz, "Constitutionalism and Civil Society," Jefferson Lecture, University of California at Berkeley, 25 April 2000. (distributed)

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

20 February: Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton U., 1993)

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

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

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

20 March: Spring Break

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

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

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

17 April: Selections from Ernest Gellner, Civil Society and its Rivals (Penguin Books, 1996) (distributed)

24 April: TBA

1 May: TBA

Books on reserve in Stokes Library, WWS:

Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton U., 1993)

_____, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, (Simon & Schuster, 2000)

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

Bob Edwards and Michael W. Foley. . "Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and Social Capital in Comparative Perspective," American Behavioral Scientist 42, no. 1, 1998 (entire issue).

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

Paul Boyer, Urban Masses and Moral order in America: 1820-1920 (Harvard U., 1978)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark E Warren, (ed.), Democracy and Trust (Cambridge University Press, 1999).

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)

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)

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ken Thomson, From Neighborhood to Nation: The Democratic Foundations of Civil Society (Hanover, NH, 2001)

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

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