

WWS 385/AMS 350: Civil Society and Public Policy

Fall, 2018

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 have 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. Then we will contrast American behavior with that in other societies. 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. We will ask what the role of religion is in civil society, and inquire whether communitarianism provides an alternative to civil society. Finally, we will look into what some are calling the beginning of global civil society.

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. Having said that, I am open to discussion about criteria for evaluation at the beginning of the term.

Books are available for purchase at the Labyrinth Bookstore on Nassau St. An extensive reserve collection of books will also be available on reserve in the Woodrow Wilson School's Stokes Library in Wallace Hall.

Book-length readings (Specific chapters will be recommended in each book.)

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

John Ehrenberg, Civil Society: The Critical History of an Idea (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., NYU Press, 2017)

Nina Eliasoph, The Politics of Volunteering (Policy Press, 2013)

Robert D. Putnam, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,  
(Simon & Schuster, 2001)

Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell, American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us (Simon & Schuster, 2010)

Sean Safford, Why the Garden Club Couldn't Save Youngstown: the Transformation of the Rust Belt (Harvard University Press, 2009)

Jeffrey Stout, Blessed Are the Organized: Grassroots Democracy in America (Princeton U. Press, 2010)

#### Reading Assignments:

12 September: Civil Society and Democracy: Tocqueville on Associationalism  
Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Part II, Chapters 1-9.

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

26 September: Civil Society and Community in the U.S.  
Thomas Bender, Community and Social Change in America  
(Rutgers U., 1978)

3 October: Civil Society in the U.S., I  
Robert D. Putnam, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, (Simon & Schuster, 2000)  
Alejandro Portes and Patricia Landolt, "Social Capital: Promise and Pitfalls of its Role in Development." Journal of Latin American Studies, vol. 32 (2000), pp. 529-547.

10 October : Civil Society in the U.S., II

Visitor: Ian Rowe (2-3 p.m.)

Robert J. Sampson, Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect (Chicago, 2012), pp. 3-24,31-49

Robert Wuthnow, Small-Town America: Finding Community, Shaping the Future (Princeton U. Press, 2013), pp. 1-16, 101-138, 341-359

17 October: Civil Society in the U.S., III

Visitor: David Frum (2-3 p.m.)

Sean Safford, Why the Garden Club Couldn't Save Youngstown: the Transformation of the Rust Belt (Harvard University Press, 2009)

24 October: Civil Society in the U.S., IV

Jeffrey Stout, Blessed Are the Organized: Grassroots Democracy in America (Princeton U. Press, 2010)

31 October: Fall Break

7 November: Religion and Civil Society

Visitor: Ai-jen Poo (2-3 p.m.)

Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell, American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us (Simon & Schuster, 2010)

14 November: Civil Society and Volunteerism

Nina Eliasoph, The Politics of Volunteering (Policy Press, 2013)

21 November: Thanksgiving Break

28 November: Civil Society Outside the United States

Abby Stoddard, "International Assistance," in Lester M. Salamon, ed., *The State of Nonprofit America* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2003), pp.329-361

Lester M. Salamon, "Government-Nonprofit Relations from an International Perspective," in J.Steven Ott and Lisa A. Dicke, eds., *The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) (Westview Press, 2012), pp.367-384

Michael Edwards, "Civil Society as Associational Life," in J.Steven Ott and Lisa A. Dicke, eds., *The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Westview Press, 2012), pp. 402-414

5 December: Global Civil Society?

Lester Salamon, Wojciech Sololowski and Regina List, "Global Civil Society:

An Overview," in Salamon, Sokolowski, et als., Global Civil Society: Dimensions of the Nonprofit Sector, vol. 2 (Kumarian Press, 2004), pp. 3-60

Martha C. Nussbaum, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism," in Nussbaum, For Love of Country? (Beacon Press, Boston, 2002), pp. 3-17

Amitai Etzioni, "A Global Government *and* Community?," in Etzioni From Empire to Community: A New Approach to International Relations (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004), pp.195-209

12 December: Concluding class discussion

15 January: Dean's Date (Term papers due)

Books on reserve in Stokes Library, WWS:

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

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)

Albert Hunter and Carl Milofsky, Pragmatic Liberalism: Constructing a Civil Society (Palgrave, 2007)

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

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

Milofsky, Smallville: Institutionalizing Community in Twenty-First-Century America (University Press of New England, 2008)

Robert D. Putnam, , 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)

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)

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)

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

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