

# **GOVT 510: Introduction to the Study of Civil Society and Democracy**

Spring 2006, Fridays 10:15am-12:05pm in ICC 202

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## **Course Description**

This graduate seminar is the gateway course for the Democracy and the Third Sector concentration within the Government Ph.D. program. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to a variety of topics, theories, and approaches related to the study of civil society and democracy. The course will not focus on any one particular world region; rather, we will cover themes that can be applied to a variety of different countries and regions—including the United States—as well as to the fields of political theory and international relations.

Each week, we will be addressing a different theme, and we will generally read and discuss multiple works within that theme. Although I have sometimes assigned books in their entirety, it is essential that you learn to “read” them in a way that allows you to understand the main argument, structure, and context of the book, without necessarily reading every word.

Overall, the course is intended to provide students with a broad and comprehensive foundation in this important subfield of political science.

## **Course Requirements**

The following is required of all students enrolled in this course: 1) to attend all class meetings; 2) to participate actively in the class discussions; 3) to co-lead the class discussion at least twice in the semester; 4) to submit weekly short (no more than one single-spaced page) “reaction papers” to the readings over the course of the semester; and 5) to write an original research paper—focusing either on the theoretical and conceptual issues covered in the course or on the application of these theories and concepts to one or more case studies that fit students’ own research interests—of approximately 20-30 pages. As part of the research paper, students will give an in-class presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes during one of the last two class sessions. The final paper will be due on Friday, May 12.

Course grades will be determined according to the following formula:

20% = Attendance and Class Participation

10% = Reaction Papers

70% = Research Paper

## Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the Georgetown University Bookstore (and on reserve at Lauinger Library):

- Virginia A. Hodgkinson and Michael W. Foley, eds., *The Civil Society Reader* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 2003)
- Marc Morjé Howard, *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)
- Robert D. Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993)
- Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000)
- Theda Skocpol, *Diminished Democracy: From Membership to Management in American Civic Life* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2003)
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*. Translated by George Lawrence, edited by J.P. Mayer (New York: Harper & Row, 1966)
- Mark E. Warren, ed., *Democracy and Trust* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

The other readings are available in PDF format on the Blackboard [Bb] website, under “Course Documents.” Several additional readings may be assigned and distributed occasionally.

## Course Sequence

### **January 13: Introduction to the Course**

### **January 20: Classic Theorists of Civil Society and Democracy I**

Adam Smith, selection from *The Wealth of Nations* [Bb]

G.F.W. Hegel, selection from *Philosophy of Right*, in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 76-95)

Karl Marx, “On the Jewish Question” and “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*” [Bb]

Antonio Gramsci, selection from *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 190-202)

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1944), Chapters 6 and 7 (pp. 68-85) [Bb]

**January 27: Classic Theorists of Civil Society and Democracy II**

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Volume II, Part II, Chapters 1-8 (pp. 503-528)

Volume II, Part III, Chapter 5 (pp. 572-580)

Volume II, Part IV, Chapters 1-8 (pp. 667-705)

**February 3: Contemporary Theorists of Civil Society and Democracy**

Benjamin R. Barber, selection from *Strong Democracy*, in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 234-254)

Jean L. Cohen and Andrew Arato, selection *Civil Society and Political Theory*, in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 270-291)

Michael Walzer, "A Better Vision: The Idea of Civil Society," in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 306-321)

Mark E. Warren, *Democracy and Association* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), Chapter 1 [Bb]

**February 10: Alternative Concepts: Social Capital**

Mark Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties," in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 78 (1973), pp. 1360-1380 [Bb]

James S. Coleman, "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital," in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 94 (1988), pp. S95-S120 [Bb]

Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*

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

**February 17: Alternative Concepts: Trust**

Warren, ed., *Democracy and Trust*, chapters by Mark E. Warren, Russell Hardin, Claus Offe, Ronald Inglehart, and Eric M. Uslaner

**February 24: Civil Society in the United States I**

Robert N. Bellah *et al.*, selection from *Habits of the Heart*, in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 328-347)

Putnam, *Bowling Alone*

Stephen Macedo *et al.*, *Democracy at Risk: How Political Choices Undermine Citizen Participation, and What We Can Do About It* (Washington DC: Brookings Institution, 2005), Chapters 1 and 5 (pp. 1-20 and 155-178) [Bb]

Kay Lehman Schlozman, Sidney Verba, and Henry E. Brady, "Civic Participation and the Equality Problem," in Theda Skocpol and Morris P. Fiorina, eds., *Civic Engagement in American Democracy* (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution Press and the Russell Sage Foundation, 1999), pp. 427-459 [Bb]

### **March 3: Civil Society in the United States II**

Skocpol, *Diminished Democracy*

Jason Kaufman, *For the Common Good? American Civic Life and the Golden Age of Fraternity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 3-32) [Bb]

Bob Edwards and Michael W. Foley, "Civil Society and Social Capital Beyond Putnam," in *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol. 42, No. 1 (1998), pp. 124-140 [Bb]

**\*\*\* NO CLASS ON MARCH 10—SPRING BREAK \*\*\***

### **March 17: Alternative Concepts: The Third Sector and Global Civil Society**

Walter W. Powell, ed., *The Nonprofit Sector* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987), chapters 1-5, by Peter Dobkin Hall, Henry Hansmann, James Douglas, Gabriel Rudney, and John G. Simon [Bb]

Lester M. Salamon, *America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), Chapter 1 (pp. 3-11) [Bb]

Jon Van Til, *Growing Civil Society: From Nonprofit Sector to Third Space* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000), Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-30) [Bb]

Lester M. Salamon *et al.*, *Global Civil Society: Dimensions of the Nonprofit Sector* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, 1999), Part 1 (pp. 1-39) [Bb]

Marlies Glasius, Mary Kaldor, and Helmut Anheier, eds., *Global Civil Society 2002* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-53) [Bb]

Jessica T. Mathews, "Power Shift," and Mary Kaldor, "Global Civil Society," in *The Global Transformations Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., edited by David Held and Anthony McGrew (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003), pp. 204-212, 559-563

### **March 24: Non-State Actors in International Relations**

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), Chapter 1 (pp. 1-38) [Bb]

Simmons, P.J., "Learning to Live with NGOs," in *Foreign Policy*, No. 112 (Fall 1998), pp. 82-96 [Bb]

Florini, Ann M. and P.J. Simmons, "What the World Needs Now?" in Ann M. Florini, ed., *The Third Force: The Rise of Transnational Civil Society* (Washington DC: Carnegie, 2000) [Bb]

Alexander Cooley and James Ron, "The NGO Scramble," in *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Summer 2002), pp. 5-39 [Bb]

Peter Singer, "Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry and Its Ramifications for International Security," in *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Winter 2001/02), pp. 186-220 [Bb]

### **March 31: Democracy and Democratization in Comparative Politics**

- Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy," in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (1959), pp. 69-105 [Bb]
- Gabriel A. Almond and Sidney Verba, selection from *The Civic Culture*, in Hodgkinson and Foley (pp. 173-189)
- Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971), pp. 1-32 [Bb]
- Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is ... and Is Not," in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 49-62 [Bb]
- Dankwart A. Rustow, "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model," in Lisa Anderson, ed., *Transitions to Democracy* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), pp. 14-41 [originally published in *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (April 1970), pp. 337-363] [Bb]
- Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, "Toward Consolidated Democracies," in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., *The Global Divergence of Democracies* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), pp. 93-112 [Bb]
- Larry Diamond, *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999), Chapter 1 (pp. 1-23) [Bb]
- Thomas Carothers, "The End of the Transition Paradigm," in *The Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (January 2002), pp. 5-21 [Bb]
- Larry Diamond, "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes," Andreas Schedler, "The Menu of Manipulation," Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," and Nicolas van de Walle, "Africa's Range of Regimes," all part of a special section entitled "Elections Without Democracy," in *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (April 2002), pp. 21-80 [Bb]

### **April 7: Civil Society in Comparative Politics**

- Larry Diamond, *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999), Chapter 6 (pp. 218-260) [Bb]
- Sheri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," in *World Politics*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (1997), pp. 401-429 [Bb]
- Chris Hann, "Introduction: Political Society and Civil Anthropology," in Chris Hann and Elizabeth Dunn, eds., *Civil Society: Challenging Western Models* (London and New York: Routledge, 1996), pp. 1-26 [Bb]
- Howard, *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe*
- Volker Finn Heinrich, "Studying Civil Society Across the World," in *Journal of Civil Society*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (2005), along with responses by critics [Bb]

**\*\*\* NO CLASS ON APRIL 14—EASTER BREAK \*\*\***

**April 21: Student presentations I**

**April 28: Student presentations II**

**\*\*\* RESEARCH PAPERS DUE ON FRIDAY, MAY 12 BY 4PM \*\*\***