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)


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

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

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
2 April: Civil Society in the U.S., II
   Ken Thomson, From Neighborhood to Nation: The Democratic Foundations of

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: Fukuyama

23 April: Global Civil Society, global democracy
   Reader: Scholte, Keane, Anheier

30 April: Conclusions

Books on reserve in Stokes Library, WWS:


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)


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)

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


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


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

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

**E-reserves at Stokes Library, WWS:**


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:**

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*
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*


12. Tismaneanu, “Civil Society, Pluralism, and the Future of East and Central Europe” in *Social Research*


15. Scholte, “Civil Society and Democracy in Global Governance” in *Global Governance*


17. Anheier, “Introducing Global Civil Society” in *Global Civil Society*


19. Krishna, “Enhancing Political Participation in Democracies” in *Comparative Political Studies*

20. Chambers, “Bad Civil Society” in *Political Theory*