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.

Books required for purchase are available at Micawber’s Bookstore. They contain everything assigned for reading in the schedule below. The only exceptions are the assignments of the final two weeks, which will be available on reserve in the Woodrow Wilson School’s Stokes Library in Wallace Hall.
Readings required for purchase:

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

Bob Edwards, Michael W. Foley and Mario Diani, eds., *Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and the Social Capital Debate in Comparative Perspective*  
(Tufts: University Press of New England, 2001)


Virginia A. Hodgkinson and Michael W. Foley, eds., *The Civil Society Reader*  

(Simon & Schuster, 2000)


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

Reading Assignments:

4 February: Civil Society and Democracy: Introduction  
Hodgkinson and Foley, eds., *The Civil Society Reader,* pp. 113-202  
Alexis de Tocqueville  
John Dewey  
Antonio Gramsci

11 February: Civil Society: History  

18 February: Civil Society and Politics  
Edwards, Foley and Diani, *Beyond Tocqueville,* pp. 17-96  
Keith Whittington  
Sheri Berman  
John Booth and Patricia Richard  
Kent Portney and Jeffrey Berry  
William Maloney, Graham Smith and Gerry Stoker

25 February: Deferred until the Reading Period
3 March: How Civil Society Makes Democracy Work  
Hodgkinson and Foley, eds., pp. 234-347  
Benjamin Barber  
Sara Evans and Harry Boyte  
Jean Cohen and Andrew Arato  
Edward Shils  
Michael Walzer  
Robert Putnam  
Bellah, Madsen, Sullivan, Swidler and Tipton

10 March: What’s So Great about Civil Society?  

17 March: Spring Break

26 March: Social Capital Reconsidered  
Edwards, Foley and Diani, eds., pp. 221-280  
Kenneth Newton  
Andrew Greeley  
Youniss, Mclellan and Yates  
Richard Wood  
Foley, Edwards and Diani

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

7 April: Civil Society in the U.S., II

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

21 April: Civil Society and Engagement  
Edwards, Foley and Diani, eds., pp. 139-218  
Stolle and Rochon  
Carla Eastis  
Mark Warren  
Debra Minkoff  
Debra Minkoff  
Jackie Smith  
Mario Diani
28 April: Civil Society in Emerging Democracies
   Stanley Katz, “Constitutionalism and Civil Society”
   Hodgkinson and Foley, eds., Adam Michnik, pp. 203-212

3 May: Deferred class: Global Civil Society
   Kaldor, Anheier and Glasius, eds., Global Civil Society, pp. 3-33, 45-55

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)

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)


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)


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