

**Civil Society and the State**  
SS 256

**Instructor: Berna Turam**  
**Office: Franklin Patterson Hall, G-6**  
**Email: [bturam@hampshire.edu](mailto:bturam@hampshire.edu)**

Civil society has become one of the most popular terms both in scholarly work and practice. Despite this popularity, however, there has been hardly any consensus about the definition of the term. The major goal of the course is a critical rethinking of both classical and contemporary theories of civil society by exploring its links to the state and other political institutions. Concretely, we will explore alternative patterns of interaction between the state and a wide-ranging sphere of collective action, including social movements, community action, grass root activities, diversified voices of the public sphere, non-governmental organizations and interpersonal reciprocal relations. Theoretical approaches will be accompanied by actual case studies, which will be discussed in class. We will also situate civil society a imperative quality of social life to the context of political reform, democratization and broader political transformations. In this vein, the students will develop their final project and form their research question by engaging closely with the course material and the respective conceptual analysis. The presentation of final projects in class will help us to share different research questions and arguments and also enable us to give constructive criticism to the students.

**Course Requirements:**

Regular attendance, class discussions and presentations, three short papers and the final research paper.

**Required Readings:**

Coursepacket

Jillian Schwedler. 2006. *Faith in Moderation*. Cambridge University Press.

Asef Bayat. 2007. *Making Islam Democratic*. Stanford University Press.

Frank D. Bean and Gillian Stevens. 2003. *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity*. Russell Sage Foundation

**Recommended Readings:**

J. S. Migdal, Atul Kohli and Vivienne Shue. 1994. *State Power and Social Forces*. Cambridge University Press.

Bob Edwards .2001. *Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and the Social Capital Debate*. University Press of New England.

John A. Hall. 1995. *Civil Society*. Polity Press.

Richard A. Norton (ed).1995. *Civil Society in the Middle East*.

Sept 6: Introduction

**Sept 11-13: An Introductory Look at Alternative Networks In History**

(Please find the following three readings in this section ON RESERVE)

Ralph Hattox. *Coffee and Coffeehouses*

Leslie Pierce. *The Imperial Harem*

Gambetta. *Sicilian Mafia*.

**Sept. 18-20: CLASSICAL THEORIES**

Alexis de Tocqueville. 2003. *Democracy in America*. University of Chicago Press.  
(selected pages on reserve)

Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*, pp.77-120, 148-157

Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (selected letters: 6, 24, 26, 30,63, 96, 141, 161)

SEPTEMBER 27 ADVISING DAY-NO CLASSES

**September 25-Oct 2: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES**

***Community: Social Capital and its Limits***

Robert D. Putnam. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital", in *Journal of Democracy*, 6 (1), pp. 65-78.

Berman Sherry. 2001 "Civil Society and Political Institutionalization" in Bob Edwards (eds.) *Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and the Social Capital Debate*. University Press of New England.

Jenny White. 2002. *Islamist Mobilization in Turkey*. University of Chicago Press.

Oct.9 OCTOBER BREAK-NO CLASSES

**Oct 4-11: Public Sphere and Religion**

Gellner.1996. "Islam" in *Conditions of Liberty*, Penguin Books, pp.15-30

Lindholm, Charles 1996. "The Middle East: Assumptions and Problems" and "Problems and Possibilities" in *The Islamic Middle East: Tradition and Change*, pp1-10, pp.260-271 Oxford:Blackwell.

Casanova, Jose. *Public Religions in the Modern World*, Chicago University Press, pp., 1-66

Casanova, Jose 2001 'Civil Society and Religion: Retrospective Reflections on Catholicism and Prospective Reflections on Islam', *Social Research* 68(4): 1041-81

**OCTOBER 16: RESPONSE PAPER DUE**

**Oct 16-18: Linking Civil Society to the State**

Michael Mann. 1993. "Introduction" to the *Sources of Social Power*, volume II.

Hall, "In Search of Civil Society" in Hall (ed) *Civil Society*. Polity Press

Migdal, *State in Society*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-29 and 97-110

**Oct 23-30: Clan Politics: Kinship and the State**

Schatz Book

Oct 25 Film and discussion

**OCTOBER 30: FILM REVIEW DUE**

**nov 1-6-8: Islamic Politics: Religion, Community and the State**

Diamond Larry et al. 2003. "Introduction" to *Islam and Democracy in the Middle East*. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. ix-xxvi

Eickelman 1995. 'Foreword' to Norton, A (ed.) *Civil Society in the Middle East* (Leiden: E.J. Brill), vol. 2

Richard Norton. 1995 (ed.) *Civil Society in the Middle East* (Leiden: E.J. Brill), vol. 2

Alfred Stepan. 2001. 'The World's Religious Systems. Crafting "Twin Tolerations"' in *Arguing Comparative Politics*. Oxford University Press.

Berna Turam. 2007. *Between Islam and the State: The Politics of Engagement*. Stanford University Press. (Intro, ch. 1)

Salame. *Democracy without Democrats?*

**NOV 12: BAYAT BOOK REVIEW DUE**

**Nov 13-15-20: Civil Society, Democracy and the Middle East**

Bayat Book

**NOV 13 FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE**

Nov 22 THANKS GIVING

**Nov 27-29: Civil Society, Diversity in America**

Frank and Gillian Book

**Presentations**

Dec 4-6

**FINAL PAPERS DUE DEC 6!!**