Antalya Bilim University
Department of Political Science and International Relations
POLS 403/POLS 453 Democracy, Civil Society and Social Capital
Fall 2023

Class time:
Wednesdays 12:30-15:20
Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 11:00-12:00

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(A2-34)

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to the conceptual, theoretical and practical discussions on democracy, civil society and social capital. As debates regarding the state of democracy heighten and a global populist surge is visible, the role and relevance of civic associationalism becomes increasingly important. The first part of the course focuses on the state of democracy, the ideal of civil society, and the different facets of social capital. In the second half of the course, theoretical and conceptual discussions are complemented by empirical studies that examine different country cases as well as civil society at different levels, including individual level effects. Further, current challenges, weaknesses and critiques to the role attributed to civil society in liberal democracies are explored.

To complement the theoretical debates on civil society it is essential for students to keep up with news items, reports, and podcasts on the subjects of civil society and social capital. We will examine the theoretical discussions on civil society and social capital in the context of current events and practical experiences of the third sector. The selected readings, as well as other media sources, will expose students to case studies from different periods as well as countries.

Course Readings:

The course readings will be uploaded to the assigned week on LMS.

Expectations & Requirements:

1) **Attendance & Participation (%10)**: <u>Attendance is mandatory</u> and participation is a key part of your overall grade. Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate in the weekly discussions. Students will be assigned articles to present/discuss in class to ensure the participation of each student. You must attend at least 70% of classes to pass this course. Students who do not fulfill attendance requirements will receive an FX from this course.

2) **Mid-term (30%):** Students will have one mid-term exam which constitutes 30% of the overall grade. The midterm will be based on all course materials we cover until the exam date.

3) **In-Class Reaction Papers (%20):** You will have four in-class reaction paper assignments throughout the semester. Reaction papers will assess your ability to critically analyze the materials covered in the course. They will be based on the readings and other materials assigned. You will write the reaction paper based on a question posed regarding the assigned topic of the week. You will have 20-30 minutes to write. The 4th reaction paper will include a short presentation (detailed guidelines will be shared later with students).

4) **Final exam (40%):** Students will have one final exam at the end of the semester, which makes up 40% of your overall grade. The majority of the final exam questions will be based on the course material we cover after the midterm exam.

Expected Student Conduct

- You are expected to attend and participate in class. If you need to be excused, please contact me before class to let me know. I will be taking attendance which will affect your overall grade.

- PLAGIARISM, which is the practice of using or copying someone else's idea or work and claiming it as your own in exams, homework and papers is considered an academic crime, and will be subject to disciplinary action. All exams and homework will be submitted to "Turnitin", a program used to identify plagiarism. Students who are proven to plagiarize in their assignments will receive a zero from the assignment and their cases will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. **For more information on plagiarism please consult the *Student Handbook for the Department of Political Science and International Relations*.** You may access it on our department's webpage.

You are responsible for all the information included in this document. Please read it carefully and use it to follow our topics and assigned readings throughout the semester, and to ensure you fulfill all the requirements of the course. If any changes are made to the assignments or readings, I will email you in advance.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

Overview of syllabus. Expectations.

Week 2-3 The State of Democracy

Lipset, Seymour Martin. "The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited: 1993 Presidential Address" American Sociological Review 59, no.1 (Feb. 1994), pp.1-22.

Galston, W.A. "The populist challenge to Liberal Democracy" Journal of Democracy, 29, no.2 (2018): 5-19.

Video: Michael Sandel on The Failure of Liberal Politics
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZT89fPK22EI&t=212s

Week 4-5 Social Capital and Democracy 1

Putnam, Robert, Nanetti, Rafealla, and Leonardi, Robert. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy.* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1993, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4.

Larry Diamond, "Rethinking Civil Society: Toward Democratic Consolidation," Journal of Democracy, Vol. 5, no. 3 (1994)

Brysk, Alison. 2000. "Democratizing Civil Society in Latin America." Journal of Democracy 11(3): 151-165.

Podcast: *Voices of Open Government*. "Empower Civil Society, Strengthen Democracy." Anabel Cruz. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/empower-civil-society-strengthen-democracy/

*Reaction Paper 1

Week 6-7 Social Capital and Democracy 2

Michael W. Foley and Bob Edwards, "The Paradox of Civil Society" Journal of Democracy 7(3) (1996) 38-52.

Eric Uslaner. "Democracy and Social Capital" In *Democracy and Trust*, edited by Mark E. Warren, 121-151. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Cerem I. Cenker-Özek. "Civic Space in Turkey: A Social Capital Approach to Civil Society" *Turkish Studies*, 18, no.4 (2017): 688-709.

Video: Pippa Norris: "The Two Faces of Trust"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdY1PIhPaKM

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Week 8 MIDTERM EXAM
No class
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Week 9 Individual Level Effects of Participation

Marc Morje Howard and Leah Gilbert. "A Cross-National Comparison of the Internal Effects of Participation in Voluntary Organizations" *Political Studies*, 2008.

Çakmaklı, Didem. "Active citizenship in Turkey: learning citizenship in civil society organizations" *Citizenship Studies* 19, no.3-4 (2015): 421-435.

Podcast: *Voices of Open Government*. "On a Quest to Raise Young Voices" Ebenezar Wikina. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/on-a-quest-to-raise-young-voices/

Podcast: *Voices of Open Government.* "To Protect the Environment,Protect the Defenders" Felipe Pino. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/to-protect-the-environment-protect-the-defenders/

*Reaction Paper 2

Week 10 Un-Civil Society

Chambers, Simone and Kopstein, Jeffery (2001) "Bad Civil Society", Political Theory, Vol. 29, No. 6. pp. 837-865

Carlo Ruzza (2009), "Populism and euroscepticism: Towards uncivil society?", Policy and Society, 28:1, 87-98.

Week 11-12 Civil Society, Governments and the State

Berman, Sheri. "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic." *World Politics* 49, no.3 (1997): 401-429.

Stanley Bill. (2020), "Counter-Elite Populism and Civil Society in Poland: PiS's Strategies of Elite Replacement", East European Politics and Societies and Cultures.

Lewis, David. 2013. "Civil Society and the Authoritarian State: Cooperation, Contestation and Discourse." Journal of Civil Society 9(3): 325-340.

Hsu, Carolyn.2010. "Beyond Civil Society: An Organizational Perspective on State-NGO Relations in the People's Republic of China." Journal of Civil Society 6(3): 259-277.

*Reaction Paper 3

Week 13- 14: Global State of Civil Society: Presentations and Review

CIVICUS 2022 State of Civil Society Report

https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/SOCS/2022/CIVICUS2022SOCSReport.pdf

*Reaction Paper 4