

Antalya Bilim University
Graduate Institute
Global Politics and International Relations
POLS 739, Democracy, Civil Society and Social Capital
Fall 2022

Class time: Tuesdays 9:30-12:30
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-13:30

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(A2-71)

This course is designed to engage graduate students with the conceptual, theoretical and practical discussions on civil society and social capital. As debates regarding the state of democracy in the world heighten and a populist surge is visible, the role and relevance of civic associationalism becomes increasingly important. The first part of the course will focus on the state of democracy and the ideal of civil society. The relationship between civic engagement, democratization and democratic consolidation will be studied. This will be complemented by discussions on the individual level effects of civic engagement and the role of social capital. The second half of the course will examine critiques to the role attributed to civil society in liberal democracies, and some of the challenges and weaknesses to it.

In addition to 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 these news items, will expose students to case studies from different periods as well as countries. As you will see below, assignments will require students to follow current debates on these topics. I will share and at times assign podcasts for you to listen to and expect students to follow other episodes of recommended podcasts.

Course Readings:

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

Expectations & Requirements:

- 1) Attendance & Participation (%5):** Attendance and participation is mandatory. You are required to attend at least 70% of classes. Students who do not fulfill attendance requirements will receive an FX. Besides attendance, students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate in the weekly discussions.
- 2) Mid-term (30%):** Students will have one mid-term exam throughout the semester, which constitutes 30% of the overall grade. The midterm will be based on all course material we cover until the exam date.
- 3) Policy Brief and Presentation (%15):** Each student will write a policy brief addressing a contemporary challenge to civil society and civic participation. The topic should be relevant and linked to politics and society today (eg. issues such as the rise of populism or the Covid-19 pandemic). You will consult the professor to confirm your briefing topic. The student will have 20 minutes to present and hold a question and answer session on the paper topic. The detailed guideline to this assignment will be sent to you during the third week.
- 4) Final exam (50%):** Students will have one final exam at the end of the semester, which makes up 50% 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.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

Overview of syllabus and semester

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 Civil Society

Micheal Walzer. "A Better Vision: The Idea of Civil Society" *Dissent* 39 (Spring 1991): 293-304.

Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski. "Civil Society and Democratization" In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*, 675-693, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Week 5-6 Civil Society and Democracy

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

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

Edward Shils. 1991. "The Virtue of Civil Society", *Government and Opposition*.

Week 7 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. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9248.2007.00715.x

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

Week 8 MIDTERM EXAM

No class

Week 9-10 Social Capital

Woolcock, M. and Narayan, Deepa. "Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research and Policy" *The World Bank Research Observer* 15, no.2, (2000): 225-249.

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

Cerem I. Cenk-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 (aka the Cautionary Fable of the Frog and the Scorpion)" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdY1PIhPaKM>

Week 11 Civil Society as a Political Instrument

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*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0888325420950800>

Week 12-13: Civic Life in Decline?

Video: Robert Putnam on our Civic Life in Decline
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZHZc-kcyQQ>

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

Week 14: Student Presentations and Review