Overview:
Researchers in political science and related disciplines have in recent years made renewed efforts to explore the role in politics of associational life, interpersonal networks, trust, and related concepts. The questions raised in this literature are many, including: How might citizens' organizations enhance the quality of democratic governance, or bring about change within authoritarian systems? How useful are concepts like “civil society” and “social capital,” and do they function similarly or differently in varied cultural and institutional contexts? In what ways, if any, are non-governmental and non-profit organizations reshaping the political landscape domestically and internationally? Our goals in this graduate seminar are to familiarize ourselves with the main currents and contributions within these debates and to assess them critically, identifying avenues for future research. We will be broadly comparative in our approach, considering evidence from many parts of the world. We will read work within our own discipline as well as others while maintaining a general focus on political outcomes.

Assignments:
• Do the required readings
• Participate actively in discussion (18% of course grade)
• Complete six reading responses, 2-3 pages each (42%). You may choose the weeks you wish to address; on those weeks, turn in your response paper by 6 p.m. the Sunday before class, via email attachment (WordPerfect, Word, or PDF format).
• Choose (after consulting with me early in the semester) and carry out a research-oriented project. The main possibilities are writing either a paper based on original research, or a thorough review of an issue related to the course coupled with a research design. Students will also give presentations of their work on the final day of class. The length of the paper should be on the order of 12-15 pages (40%).

WEEK ONE — INTRODUCTION
Monday, August 21

Required Reading
• Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Volume II, Part II, chapters 1-8 [web]
• Craig Calhoun, “Introduction: Habermas and the Public Sphere,” in Calhoun, ed., Habermas and the Public Sphere (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1993) [icon]
• Jessica Mathews, “Power Shift,” Foreign Affairs, Jan-Feb 1997, pp. 50-61 [e-journals]
WEEK TWO — CONCEPTS I: ASSOCIATIONS / CIVIL SOCIETY
Monday, August 28

Required Reading
• Muthiah Alagappa, introduction and chapter 1 of *Civil Society and Political Change in Asia: Expanding and Contracting Democratic Space* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004), pp. 1-57 [icon or reserves]
• Sheri Berman, “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic,” *World Politics*, vol. 49, no. 3 (April 1997), pp. 401-429 [e-journals]

Further Reading
• Charles Taylor, “Invoking Civil Society,” in Robert E. Goodin and Philip Pettit, eds., *Contemporary Political Philosophy*
• Lester M. Salamon and S. Wojciech Sokolowski, eds., *Global Civil Society: Dimensions of the Nonprofit Sector* Vol. 2 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 2004)
• Chris Hann and Elizabeth Dunn, eds., *Civil Society: Challenging Western Models* (London: Routledge, 1996)

*** Monday, September 4: **No meeting**, University holiday ***

WEEK THREE — CONCEPTS II: NETWORKS / SOCIAL CAPITAL
Monday, September 11

Required Reading
• Mark Granovetter, “The Strength of Weak Ties,” *American Journal of Sociology* vol. 78 (1973) pp. 1360-1380 [e-journals]
• James S. Coleman, “Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital,” *American Journal of Sociology*
vol. 94, supplement (1988), pp. S95-S120 [e-journals]
• Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), chapters 4 and 6; you may wish to skim the other chapters [reserves]

Further Reading
• Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities (New York: Random House, 1961) [A stimulating book in general; see specifically chapter 6 for her use of the term “social capital.”]
• Note that both the March/April 1997 and September 1998 editions of American Behavioral Scientist were dedicated to social capital and civil society; many of the articles are reprinted in Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and the Social Capital Debate in Comparative Perspective (2001)

WEEK FOUR — CONCEPTS III: TRUST
Monday, September 18

Required Reading
• Edward C. Banfield with the assistance of Laura Fasano Banfield, The Moral Basis of a Backward Society (Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1958), pp. 7-31, 85-104 [icon]
• Francis Fukuyama, “Social Capital and the Global Economy,” Foreign Affairs vol. 74, no. 5 (September/October 1995) [e-journals]
• Russell Hardin, Trust and Trustworthiness (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002), pages to be announced [icon]

Further Reading
• Janos Kornai and Susan Rose-Ackerman, eds., Building a Trustworthy State in Post-Socialist Transition
WEEK FIVE — CONCEPTS IV: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Monday, September 25

**Required Reading**
- Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald, eds., *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 1-20 [icon]

WEEK SIX — ASSOCIATIONS, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY I
Monday, October 2

**Required Reading**
- *Bowling Alone* generated much debate. By noon on Saturday before class, you are required to find a review of this book that you think makes one or more important points, and distribute it to the group as an email attachment. You must choose a review that no one else has sent to the group yet, and then at least skim the reviews that others send.

**Further Reading**

WEEK SEVEN — ASSOCIATIONS, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY II
Monday, October 9

**Required Reading**
- Theda Skocpol, Marshall Ganz, and Ziad Munson, "A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins

- Theda Skocpol and Morris P. Fiorina, eds., *Civic Engagement in American Democracy* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 1999), the following chapters: [reserves]
  - Jeffrey M. Berry, “The Rise of Citizen Groups,” ch. 10
  - Morris P. Fiorina, “Extreme Voices: A Dark Side of Civic Engagement,” ch. 11
  - Theda Skocpol, “Advocates without Members: The Recent Transformation of American Civic Life,” ch. 13
- David Campbell, “Community Heterogeneity and Participation,” paper based on part of his 2006 book: *Why We Vote: How Schools and Communities Shape Our Civic Life* [icon]

**WEEK EIGHT — ESTABLISHED DEMOCRACIES**

Monday, October 16

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**WEEK NINE — NON-DEMOCRACIES**

Monday, October 23

**Required Reading**

- Suzain Kadir, “Singapore: Engagement and Autonomy within the Political Status Quo," in Muthiah

- Lily L. Tsai, “Solidary Groups and Informal Institutions of Accountability in Rural China,” paper from 2005 Shambaugh Conference at University of Iowa [icon]

**Further Reading**


**WEEK TEN — REGIME TRANSITIONS**

Monday, October 30


**Further Reading**


**WEEK ELEVEN — DEVELOPMENT AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

Monday, November 6

**Required Reading**
• UNAIDS, “The Essential Role of Civil Society,” chapter 9 of *UNAIDS General Report 2006* [icon]
• Anthony Bebbington and Roger Riddell, “Heavy Hands, Hidden Hands, Holding Hands? Donors, Intermediary NGOs and Civil Society Organisations,” and conclusion, in David Hulme and Michael Edwards, eds., *NGOs, States, and Donors: Too Close for Comfort?* (Houndsmills: MacMillan Press, 1997) [icon]

**Further Reading**
• Volkart Finn Heinrich, “The Role of NGOs in Strengthening the Foundations of South African Democracy,” *Voluntas* vol. 12, no. 1 (March 2001), pp. 1-16

**WEEK TWELVE — STATE-SOCIETY FUSION: SYNERGY OR DYSTOPIA?**
Monday, November 13

**Required Reading**
• Peter Evans, “Introduction: Development Strategies Across the Public-Private Divide,” and Wai Fung Lam, “Institutional Design of Public Agencies and Coproduction: A Study of Irrigation Associations in Taiwan,” in *World Development* vol. 24, no. 6 (June 1996) [e-journals]
Further Reading

- Tony Saich, “Negotiating the State: The Development of Social Organizations in China,” The China Quarterly 161 (March 2000) [e-journals]
- Joseph Hannah, “‘Autonomous,’ ‘Ambiguous’ or ‘Amphibious’: The Cross-Colonization of State and Civil Society Organizations in Vietnam,” revised paper from 2005 Shambaugh Conference at University of Iowa [icon]
- Benjamin L. Read, paper on Beijing and Taipei [icon]

Further Reading

- Rajesh Tandon, "Breath of Life or Kiss of Death? NGO Relations with Governments" (New Delhi: PRIA, 1989)

*** November 20: No meeting, Thanksgiving break ***

WEEK THIRTEEN — TRANS-NATIONAL PHENOMENA

Monday, November 27

Required Reading

- Sanjeev Khagram, James V. Riker, and Kathryn Sikkink, eds., Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2002), chapters 1, 10 [reserves]

Further Reading

- Sidney Tarrow, “Rooted Cosmopolitans: Towards a Sociology of Transnational Contention,” unpublished paper, 2002

**WEEK FOURTEEN — STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**
Monday, December 4