Sociology of Civil Society in Comparative Perspectives

SOC 20204/30204
Winter 2012

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SS 422
Office Hrs: TTH 1:30-2:30 pm
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Course Description

This course examines how civil society (or associational community) interacts with the state and market in comparative perspectives. After a theoretical overview of classical theories of civil society and more modern theoretical variations, it explores the various topics of civil society from institutional, organizational, and cultural perspectives. Topics include: civil society and social movements, civil society and welfare states, civil society and formal organizations, and transformation of civil society and public sphere, civil society and ethnic conflicts.

Evaluation

Your overall evaluation will be based on (1) Daily reading notes with critical questions (40%); (2) a research proposal (preliminary proposal 20% + updated proposal 20% = 40%); (3) participation in class discussion, presentations and leading discussions (20%);

√ Daily reading notes should include two parts: (1) your own answers to my challenging questions from daily reading assignments (about 100 to 150 words for each question. If there are three questions, the length will be about 450 words at maximum). Please submit these answers by the beginning of each class; (2) your own one critical point or question for one reading assignment you (dis)like most (about 100 words). This will be typically the reading for which I did not ask any challenge questions. I hope you put this one discussion question on the discussion board of our course webpage (chalk) the day before our class (no later than 5:00 pm). We will utilize these questions for class discussion.

√ The term paper topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor and should be closely related to some area of scholarship covered in the syllabus. Submit the title and one paragraph (about a half page, 2-300 words) of the description of your research proposal by class 7. Then, you will be expected to submit three or four-page length research proposal (class 12). This research proposal should consist of one paragraph of introduction including your research question, one page of overview of previous research, one paragraph of the implication of your research topic for the related field(s), one or two paragraphs for your ‘causal’ hypothesis and theoretical framework, and one page of data, measurement and methods. As for methodological approach, you may utilize either quantitative or qualitative technique (or both). There are two requirements you should meet regarding this term paper: (1) you should choose at least two regions, hopefully two countries, but you may choose two or more regions within the U.S or any other countries; (2) you should specify independent and dependent variables and explain a causal mechanism between your specified variables.

For the final paper, you will have to develop about 10 (12 point size font, double space, 1 inch margin on all four sides) page length research paper with (at least) one piece of basic empirical evidence (based on comparative historical evidence, descriptive statistics, or preliminary regression analysis). You are expected to present your research proposal during the final three sessions (17, 18 and 19) – I encourage power-point presentation (no need to submit your paper at this point) and then submit the final research paper no later than March 13 after digesting my and your colleagues’ comments.
Weekly Assignments

Class 1. Why does it matter?
Syllabus: Overview of the Course

Class 2. Civil Society in America

Supplementary Readings: Skocpol, Theda. *Diminished Democracy. Civic Engagement in American Democracy.*

Class 3. Civil Society in Western Europe: Italy, Spain, France, and Sweden

Class 4. Civil Society in Developing Countries I: Latin America and Eastern Europe

Class 5. Civil Society in Developing Countries II: Caribbean, Asia, Middle East and Africa

Class 6. Civil Society and Public Sphere: Classic Theorists to Habermas
Habermas, Jurgen. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, Chs 1 and 2 (pp.1-56)

Class 7. Civil Society and New Social Movements

Class 8. Civil Society and Interest Group Politics
Knoke, David, Franz Urban Pappi, Jeffrey Broadbent, Yutaka Tsujinaka. 1996. Comparing Policy Networks: Labor Politics in the U.S., Germany, and Japan. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1 (pp.1-28); Chs. 8 and 9 (pp.189-220)

Class 9. Civil Society and Political Parties I: Theories


Class 10. Civil Society and Political Parties II: Empirical Cases


Class 11. Civil Society and Participatory Governance/ Deliberative Democracy


Class 12. Student Idea Presentation

Class 13. Civil Society and Clientelism


Auyero, Javier. 1999. ““From the client’s point(s) of view”: How poor people perceive and evaluate political clientelism.” Theory and Society 28: 297-334.


Class 14. Civil Society, Cooperation and Community Development I: Game Theoretical Approaches

**Class 15. Civil Society, Cooperation and Community Development II: Network Approaches**


**Class 16. Civil Society and Ethnic Conflicts**


**Class 17-19. Student Presentation (Proposal with Elementary Evidence)**