

## **Civil Society: History and Ethics Spring 2012**

Mr. James McCarty  
Wednesday 4:00pm – 5:15pm  
Room Library Study Room #2  
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00pm – 4:00pm and by appointment

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### **Course Description**

In this course we will explore three primary themes: 1) the historical development of civil society as a feature of modern societies, 2) the contemporary state of civil society in both the United States and globally, and 3) the ethical commitments and responsibilities of citizens in contemporary civil society. Building upon the course “Ethics and Servant Leadership,” this course assumes all enrolled students have a desire to serve society by promoting the common good, a commitment to being an ethical leader and practitioner of servant leadership principles in their daily lives, and an interest in being a responsible global citizen.

Upon completion of this course students should:

1. Understand the history of the idea of civil society.
2. Understand the contemporary practice of civil society at home and abroad.
3. Understand the role of citizens in modern civil society and the responsibilities that come with being a citizen in the modern world.
4. Be able to implement servant leadership principles and practices in the context of their engagement as modern citizens.

### **Reading List**

Edwards, Michael. *Civil Society*.  
Seligman, Adam B. *The Idea of Civil Society*.

Required articles and suggested readings will be made available throughout the semester or can be found online.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Classroom Preparation and Participation (25%)**

Classroom preparation consists of completing all required readings and/or assignments, and coming to class prepared and able to participate in class discussions and ask intriguing questions during lectures. Classroom participation includes participating in class and small group discussions, but also includes attentive listening to the professor and fellow classmates. If you are naturally quiet and hesitant to speak in class please recognize that some participation in class and small group discussions is essential, but you may submit weekly reflection “journal entries” at the end of the semester to demonstrate your active engagement with and reflection on the material. These will not be formally graded, but will be used to gauge your preparation for class and engagement with material that would normally be gauged by comments and questions posed in the classroom.

Attendance Policy: Also, your preparation does not add to the classroom discussion if you are not present, and you cannot participate if you do not attend class. Therefore, every time you are absent from class or arrive late it will negatively affect your participation grade. If you are absent more than four times you will automatically fail the class. Finally, three late arrivals (arriving more than ten minutes after the start of class) will be treated as the equivalent of one absence.

Note: If extenuating circumstances (like sickness or a death in the family) arise that cause you to miss an extended period of time from school (I know life happens), please meet with me and we will discuss ways to enable completion of course requirements or other alternatives to failure of the course. Also, absences will impact your participation grade less negatively if I am informed of them as soon as possible before the missed class.

#### Four Reflection Papers (80%, 20% each)

All students are required to write four 4-5- page reflection papers during the semester (20 points each). One will be due at the beginning of class on week five and the other will be due at the beginning of class on week ten. These reflection papers will respond to a question posed by the professor two weeks prior. More information will be provided at the appropriate time during the semester.

**Note: Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.**

#### Grading Scale

93-100 = A (Excellent/Outstanding)	80-82 = B- (Above Average)	67-69 = D+ (Poor)
90-92 = A- (Superior)	77-79 = C+ (Average)	63-66 = D (Inadequate)
87-89 = B+ (Very Good)	73-76 = C (Adequate/Mediocre)	62 and Below = F (Failing)
83-86 = B (Good)	70-72 = C- (Below Average)	

#### Expectations

##### Participation

All students are expected and required to participate in class discussions and lectures. Remember, participation is not limited to speaking, but includes being present in class, attentive and respectful listening to all, participation in all classroom activities and coming to class prepared for the topic of discussion by completing all assigned reading.

##### Late Work Policy

All late work will be reduced 8% for each day it is late. For example, if you earn a 78% C+ on a paper turned in one day late your grade will be a 70% C-, or if you turn in a final project that deserves a 98% A two days late your grade will be an 82% B-.

## Technology Policy

Use of computers in the classroom, other than during a presentation to the entire class, is prohibited. I have found that students retain more information and are more engaged in classroom discussions without the presence of laptop computers during class time. If there are extenuating circumstances that require your use of a computer during class please see me during office hours. Also, please turn off or put on silent all cell phones during our time together. I will do you the courtesy of turning off my phone. Please provide the same courtesy to me and your colleagues.

## Academic Integrity

Please read the Student Honor Code:

[http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current\\_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/](http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/).

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the intentional or careless use and presentation of another person's words, thoughts, ideas or work that is not "common knowledge," as one's own, original work. In academic research and learning, both of which you will be participating in this semester, it is commonplace and necessary to learn from and use the work already done by others. However, when doing so you *must* provide citations, i.e. give credit to whom it is due, for your use of their work. If you engage in plagiarism you will automatically fail the course and be referred to Oxford College's Honor Council. Please see this resource by Indiana University for more guidance on avoiding plagiarism:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>.

## Schedule

### Introduction to the Course

#### Week 1 (January 18)

Lecture: Overview of Syllabus

#### Week 2 (January 25)

Lecture: What is Civil Society? As Opposed to What?

Assigned Reading: Edwards, Ch. 1; Taylor, *Modern Social Imaginaries*, Ch. 1; Seligman, Introduction

**REFLECTION PAPER #1 DUE**

### Historical Development

#### Week 3 (February 1)

Lecture: The History of the Idea of Civil Society Pt. 1

Assigned Reading: Seligman, Ch. 1.

#### Week 4 (February 8)

Lecture: The History of the Idea of Civil Society Pt. 2

Assigned Reading: Seligman, Ch. 2

#### Week 5 (February 15)

Lecture: The History of the Idea of Civil Society Pt. 3

Assigned Reading: Seligman, Ch. 3

### **Contemporary Civil Society**

#### Week 6 (February 22)

Lecture: Civil Society as Association

Assigned Reading: Edwards, Ch. 2.

**REFLECTION PAPER #2 DUE**

#### Week 7 (February 29)

Lecture: Civil Society and the Good Society

Assigned Reading: Edwards, Ch. 3.

#### Week 8 (March 7)

Lecture: Civil Society and the Public Sphere

Assigned Reading: Edwards, Ch. 4.

#### Week 9 (March 14)

SPRING BREAK

### **Ethics and Civil Society**

#### Week 10 (March 21)

Lecture: "Thick" and "Thin" Morality

Assigned Reading: Walzer, *Thick and Thin*, Ch. 1

**REFLECTION PAPER #3 DUE**

#### Week 11 (March 28)

Lecture: The Divided Self

Assigned Reading: Walzer, *Thick and Thin*, Ch. 5

#### Week 12 (April 4)

Lecture: Justice as Participation and Recognition

Assigned Reading: TBD

#### Week 13 (April 11)

NO CLASS

#### Week 14 (April 18)

Lecture: A Challenge to and a Defense of Civil Society

Assigned Reading: Seligman, Ch. 4, Edwards, Chs. 5-6

#### Week 15 (April 25)

**FINAL REFLECTION PAPER DUE**

**Note: This syllabus is not a contract and is liable to be revised throughout the semester at the discretion of the professor.**