

Sp19-CVS-0020-01-Intro to Civic Studies

CVS 20, TCS 20, PHIL 20, PS 20

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:45

Lane Hall Room 100

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Civic Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that focuses on critical reflection, ethical thinking, and action for social change. People who think and act together to improve society must address problems of collective action (how to get members to work together) and deliberation (how to reason together about contested values). They must understand how power is organized and how it operates within and between societies. They must grapple with social conflict, violence, and other obstacles to peaceful cooperation. When tensions arise within a group, people face questions of justice and fairness, and they must confront questions about appropriate relationships to outsiders of all types. This introductory course explores ethical, political, and theological frameworks for understanding how people can and should organize themselves to improve societies. Readings are drawn from philosophy and political theory, economics, the history of social movements, and other disciplines. This course provides theoretical grounding for Civic Studies majors and for other students interested in social change.

Course readings:

Recommended: David Grann, *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

All other readings available on the course Canvas site.

Final grades will depend on:

- class attendance and participation
- 25% first paper (5-7 pages)
- 25% second paper (5-7 pages)

- 25% a simulation (a group exercise consisting of six short writing assignments)
- 25% in-class midterm exam

Electronics Policy

Laptops are distracting in classrooms, not only for the students who use them but also for others. Laptops cannot be used during class in CVS 0020. Please bring printed copies of the readings for the day.

Papers

Please review Tufts' academic integrity policy at:

<http://students.tufts.edu/student-affairs/student-life-policies/academic-integrity-policy>

Any suspected violations of Tufts' policies will be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

We will expect you to submit all written work by the relevant deadline, except in cases of medical or family emergency. In the latter, please contact us as soon as possible to let us know what the problem is. In all other cases, beyond the due date, papers may be penalized.

January 17: Introduction

January 22: A “feeling of personal responsibility for the world”

- Summer Institute of Civic Studies Framing Statement.
- Vaclav Havel, Address at Wroclaw University (December 21, 1992)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. "The Time for Freedom has Come" (1961).

January 24: The citizen in a modern democracy

- John Dewey, *The Public and its Problems*, Chapter 5, "Search for the Great Community."

Problems of Collective Action

January 29: Elinor Ostrom and the Bloomington School

- Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Prize Lecture (video or text)

January 31: Ostrom Continued

- Thomas Dietz, Nives Dolsak, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul C. Stern, “The Drama of the Commons,” Elinor Ostrom, ed., *Drama of the Commons*, pp. 3-26.
- Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, Ch. 1.

February 5: Ostrom Continued

- Elinor Ostrom, Governing the Commons, Ch. 3.

February 7 and Feb 12 Social Capital

- Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital, ([Link](#))" *Journal of Democracy* 6:1, Jan 1995, 65-78
- Robert D. Putnam, "Community-Based Social Capital and Educational Performance," in Ravitch and Viteritti, eds., *Making Good Citizens*, pp. 58-95
- Pierre Bourdieu, *Forms of Capital*, 1986 (excerpt)

Identifying Good Ends and Means

February 14: A Deliberation

- Pre-read the Harvard Pluralism Project's case entitled A Call to Prayer and be ready to discuss what the people of Hamtramck, MI should do.

First simulation assignment (group and individual) is due.

February 19: Habermas and Deliberative Democracy

- Jürgen Habermas, "The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article," *New German Critique*, 3 (1974), pp. 49-55
- Lasse Thomassen, *Habermas: A guide for the perplexed*. A&C Black, 2010, pp. 63-96, 111-130.

February 26: Habermas Continued

- Jürgen Habermas, *Theory of Communicative Action* (selection)
- Jürgen Habermas, Between Facts and Norms, pp. 17-23, 38-41

February 28: The Conditions for Deliberation

- Jürgen Habermas, Between Facts and Norms, pp. 359-379

March 4: *First paper due*

March 5: Deliberation, Trust and Sacrifice

- Danielle E. Allen, Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship Since Brown, v. Board of Education (excerpts)

March 7: John Rawls

- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 3-19, 52-57

March 12: Testimony and Empathy

- Lynn Sanders, "Against Deliberation"
- Emily McRae, "Empathy, Compassion, and 'Exchanging Self and Other' in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Ethics" for *Handbook of Philosophy of Empathy* (Routledge), edited by Heidi Maibom, 2017.

March 14: Midterm in class

March 15-25: Spring Break

Social Movements

March 26: Social Movements

- Charles Tilly, "Social Movements, 1768-2004"
- Marshall Ganz, "Why David Sometimes Wins: Strategic Capacity in Social Movements," in Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, *Rethinking Social Movements: Structure, Meaning, and Emotion* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004) pp.177-98.

March 28: Exclusion and Identity

- The Book of Nehemiah
- Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House"
- Steve Biko, "Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity"

Second Group Assignment Due.

April 2:

Identity and the Common Good

- Lilla, Mark Lilla, "The End of Identity Politics" *The New York Times*, Nov. 18, 2016
- Todd Gitlin, "The Left Lost in Identity Politics" *Harpers*, Sept. 1993
- Transcript of an encounter: Hillary Clinton and Julius Jones

April 4: Community Organizing

- Saul Alinsky, *Reveille for Radicals*, 1946 (1969 edition), pp. 76-81; 85-88; 92-100, 132-5, 155-158.
- Myles Horton and Paulo Freire, *We Make the Road by Walking*, pp. 115-138

April 9: Nonviolent Campaigns

- Martin Luther King, Stride Toward Freedom, chapters 3, 4, and 5.
- Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan, Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict, chapters 1 and 2

April 11: Impure Dissent

- Tommie Shelby, Dark Ghettos, 38-48, 252-73

April 16: Nonviolence

- Bikhu Parekh, Gandhi, Chapter 4 ("Satyagraha"), pp. 51-62;
- Gandhi, Satyagraha (Ahmedabad: Navajivan Publishing Co., 1951), excerpts.

April 18: Gandhi continued

- Gandhi, Notes, May 22, 1924 - August 15, 1924, in *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* (Electronic Book), New Delhi, Publications Division Government of India, 1999, 98 volumes, vol. 28, pp. 307-310
- Timothy Garton Ash, "Velvet Revolution: The Prospects," *New York Review of Books*, December 3, 2009

The Person in Community

April 23: Civic Education: What all this means for what students should learn (EK)

- Joel Westheimer and Joseph E. Kahne, "Educating the 'Good Citizen': Political Choices and Pedagogical Goals," *PS Online*

Third Group Assignment due.

April 25: Civic Studies at Tufts and Beyond

May 7: Final paper due.