Department of Sociology
Faculty of Social Sciences
South Asian University

Civil Society in South Asia
(***Ph.D. optional)***

Total Credits: 4

Objectives of the course

Civil society has been a topic of interest throughout the world. This course explores the discourse and institutional developments of civil society. In particular, it examines how different scholars and disciplines view the idea and institutions of civil society. In the process, it investigates the issue of the "autonomy" of civil society raising questions such as—what are the historical forces that gave rise to the idea and institutions of civil society? How can we relate civil society to the state and market? Next, this course examines the issue of civil society and culture. Here the focus will be culture inequalities in civil society and their implications for civil society theorizing. Finally, the syllabus examines empirical studies from across the South Asian region.

Unit I: Introduction

This unit covers the rise of the idea, institutions, and practices of civil society in Western Europe and North America in eighteenth and nineteenth century and then reviews the recent debate on the decline and importance of civil society. As will see, the debates largely focus on politics, economy, and the nature of public sphere.

Suggested Readings:

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.

Chandhoke, Neera. 2001. The 'Civil' and the 'Political' in Civil Society. *Democratization* 8 (2):1.

Chandhoke, Neera. 2002. The limits of global civil society. In *Global civil society*, edited by M. K. M. Glasius, and H. Anheir. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [selected chapters]

Chandhoke, Neera. 2003. *The conceits of civil society.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press [selected chapters]

Cohen and Arato. 1992. *Civil Society and Political Theory.* The MIT Press. [Chaps 10 and 11]

Gellner, Ernest. 1994. *Conditions of liberty: Civil society and its rivals.* London: Hamish Hamilton Ltd [selected chapters].

Gramsci, Anonio. 1971. *Selections From the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*, edited by Q Hoare and GN Smith. New York: Lawrence & Wishart

Habermas, J. 1991. *The structural transformation of the public sphere: An inquiry into a category of bourgeois society.* Massachusetts: MIT press. [Chapters 1 and 2]

Kaviraj, Sudipta, and Sunil Khilnani. 2001. *Civil Society: History and Possibilities.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [selected chapters]

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics.* Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press [Chapter 1 and 2]

Kitschelt, Herbert and Steven I. Wilkinson. 2007. "Citizen-Politician Linkages: An Introduction," pp. 1-49 in *Patrons, Clients, and Policies: Patterns of Democratic Accountability and Political Competition,* edited by H. Kitschelt and S.I. Wilkinson. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Marx, Karl. 1844. On The Jewish Question.
https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/

Mercer, Claire. 2002. NGOs, Civil Society and Democratization: A Critical Review of the Literature. *Progress in Development Studies* 2 (1):5-22.

Michels, Robert. 1962. *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy*. Part Six, pp. 333-371. New York: The Free Press.

Panebianco, Angelo. 1988. *Political Parties: Organization and Power*. New York: Cambridge University Press [Chaps 1 and 2]

Petras, J. 1997. Imperialism and NGOs in Latin America. *Monthly Review* 49:10-27.
Putnam, Robert. 1995. Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital. Journal of Democracy 6(1): 65-78

Putnam, Robert. 2002. *Making Democracy Work*. [Chaps 1 and 6]

Rucht, Dieter. 2006. "Civil Society Challenging Neo-liberal Globalization" in *Civil Society: Berlin Perspectives*. Berghahn Books.

Seligman, Adam B. 1992. *The idea of civil society*. New York: Free Press. [selected chapters]
Skocpol, T. 2004. *Diminished democracy: From membership to management in American civic life*. Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press. [selected chapters]

Taylor, Charles. 1990. Modes of Civil Society. *Public Culture* 3 (1): 95-118 [Also P. Chatterjee's response to Taylor]

Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America* [Selected chapters]

Unit II: Civil Society and Culture
In unit I, we observed that civil society theory largely focuses on politics and economy but there are different forms of "cultural" inequality. We see that these inequalities pose important questions to conventional civil society theorizing.

Bob, C. 2007. "Dalit rights are human rights": Caste discrimination, international activism, and the construction of a new human rights issue." *Human Rights Quarterly*: 167-193.

Dirks, N. B. 1989. The Invention of Caste: Civil Society in Colonial India. *Social Analysis: The International Journal of Social and Cultural Practice* (25), 42-52.

Fraser, N. 1990. "Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually

Existing Democracy." Pp. 109-142 In Calhoun, C. J. (1992). *Habermas and the Public Sphere*. Massachusetts, MIT Press.

Fuller, C. J. (1976). "Kerala Christians and the Caste System." *Man* 11(1): 53-70.

Madan et all. 1971. "On the Nature of Caste in India A Review Symposium on Louis Dumont's Homo Hierarchicus: *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 5 (1)

Moaddel, Mansoor. 2005. Europocentric Rationalism and Islamic Modernism in India (pp.52-740 in *Islamic Modernism, Nationalism, and Fundamentalism: Episode and Discourse.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Sheikh, Karim Sajjad, Khalil Ahmad, Ayesha Farooq, and Fauzia Saleem Alvi. 2017. "Concept and Conception of Civil Society in Western and Islamic Traditions: A Comparative Analysis of Secular and Islamic Faith-based Civil Society Practitioners in Pakistan and Bangladesh." *Journal of Political Studies* 24 (1)

Sharmila, R. 1998. "Dalit Women Talk Differently: A Critique of 'Difference' and Towards a Dalit Feminist Standpoint Position." *Economic and Political Weekly* 33(44): WS39-WS46.

Uberoi, J. S. 1996. Religion, civil society, and the state: A study of Sikhism. New Delhi, Oxford University Press.

White, A. 2006. "The role of the Islamic Waqf in strengthening South Asian civil society: Pakistan as case study." *International Journal of Civil Society* (4): 7-36.

Unit III: Civil Society in South Asia
This unit focuses on a variety of discourses and practices of civil society from across the South Asian region. Here the focus will be more on empirical studies on the actually existing civil society discourses and practices.

Suggested Readings (to be updated):
Alagappa, M. 2004. *Civil society and political change in Asia: expanding and contracting democratic space*. California: Stanford University Press [Selected chapters]

Beteille, Andre. 1999. Citizenship, State and Civil Society. *Economic and Political Weekly* 34 (36):2588-2591.

Chatterjee, P. 2001. "On civil and political society in post-colonial democracies." In *Civil society: History and possibilities.*

Edwards, Michael. 1999. NGO Performance - What Breeds Success? New Evidence from South Asia. *World Development* 27 (2):361-374.

Gandhi, M.K. 1939. Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule. Available at http://www.sevagramgandhiashram.org/pdf-books/hind-swaraj.pdf

Harriss, John. 2007. Antinomies of empowerment: observations on civil society, politics and urban governance in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*:2716-2724.

Lewis, D. 2004. "On the difficulty of studying 'civil society': Reflections on NGOs, state and democracy in Bangladesh." *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 38(3): 299-322.

Mahajan, Gurpreet. 1999. Civil Society and Its Avtars: What Happened to Freedom and Democracy? *Economic and Political Weekly* 34 (20):1188-1196

Malik, I. H. 1996. "The state and civil society in Pakistan: From crisis to crisis." *Asian Survey* 36(7): 673-690.

Oommen, T. K. 1996. State, Civil Society, and Market in India: The Context of Mobilization. *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 1 (2):191-202.

Sandbrook et al. 2007. *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery: Origins, Challenges, Prospects*. New York: Cambridge University Press. [Chap 3, Kelara]

Shah, S. 2008. *Civil society in uncivil places: soft state and regime change in Nepal.* Washington DC, East West Center.

Stiles, Kendall. 2002. International Support for NGOs in Bangladesh: Some Unintended Consequences. *World Development* 30 (5):835-846.

Tamang, Seira. 2002. Civilizing Civil Society: Donors and Democratic Space. *Studies in Nepali History and Society* 7 (2):309-353.

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond. *World Politics* 53 (3):362-398.

Walton, O. 2008. Conflict, peacebuilding and NGO legitimacy: national NGOs in Sri Lanka. *Conflict, Security & Development* 8 (1):133-167.

White, Sarah C. 1999. NGOs, Civil Society, and the State in Bangladesh: The Politics of Representing the Poor. *Development & Change* 30 (2):307.