

Communitarianism (POL S 5810-004)

Autumn 2006
Ph.D.
M, W 12:55-2:50
OSH 102

Luke Garrott,
304 OSH, 585-3722
office hrs: W 11:30-1
(and by appointment)
luke.garrott@poli-sci.utah.edu

Communitarianism is a loose, sometimes contradictory assemblage of political thought seeking to counteract the corrosive effects of individualism in America. In this course, instead of focusing exclusively on theoretical debate, we will widen our investigation of community. As a result, the course will be divided into three sections:

1) The American Scene, where we visit several portraits of the contemporary state of community and individualism; 2) Theory, where we examine theoretical perspectives from liberals, communitarians, feminists, and postmoderns; and 3) Policy, where we consider contemporary “liberal” and “conservative” approaches to community-building.

This course is a seminar, which means it is not a spectator sport. Besides producing an excellent paper (15-20 pages) by the end of the semester, you will be reading about 100 pages a week of thought-provoking material. It is imperative that you make the time and effort necessary to *come to class prepared for discussion*. If so, this will be a most rewarding class for all of us.

Required Texts (at the University Bookstore):

- Bellah, Robert, et.al., *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life* (California, 1996)
- Putnam, Robert, *Bowling Alone: the Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Touchstone, 2000)
- Readings *on reserve* at Marriott Library

Course Requirements and Policies

Besides your paper, you will be graded on reading quizzes, class participation, and a paper proposal. Since the class only meets twice a week, your attendance is mandatory. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

attendance and class participation	10%
reading quizzes (2)	20%
paper proposal (2 pp., due 10/4)	10%
paper second stage (10 pp., due 11/6)	20%
paper final stage (15-20 pp., due 12/13)	40%

Cheating and plagiarism insult both your and my intelligence, and the University's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be observed and

enforced in this course. It is your responsibility to know these rules, and the definitions of cheating and plagiarism.

If you have an emergency before a deadline, notify me as soon as possible (by phone and email). Quizzes can only be made-up if *prior* notification is given to the instructor. Papers will be penalized 1/2 grade for each day late.

The Dept. of Political Science seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union, 581-5020 (V/TDD), www.disability.utah.edu, and they will be glad to help in this process.

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction, The American Scene

8/23: Hello

Week 2: The American Scene, cont.

8/28: Theda Skocpol, "Warren Durgin's Gravestone," from *Diminished Democracy* (on reserve)

8/30: Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, Chaps 1-9

Week 3: The American Scene, cont.

9/4: Putnam, Chaps 10-15

9/6: Library research visit, 1735 Lib

Week 4: The American Scene, cont.

9/11: Putnam, Chaps 16-22; Carl Everett Ladd, "The Data Just Don't Show Erosion of America's 'Social Capital'" (in reader)

9/13: Robert Bellah, et. al., *Habits of the Heart*, Chaps 1-2

Week 5: The American Scene, cont.

9/18: Bellah et. al., Chaps 3-6

9/20: Bellah et. al., Chaps 7-10

Week 6: The American Scene, conclusion—Reality/History Check

9/25: Barry Alan Shain, "American Community" (on reserve)

9/27: Michael Sandel, "Economics and Virtue in the Early Republic" (on reserve)

Week 7: Theory—The Liberal-Communitarian Debate

10/2: John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness" (on reserve)

10/4: Michael Sandel, "Justice and the Moral Subject" (on reserve)

•**paper first stage (proposal) due 10/4**

Week 8: Theory—The Liberal-Communitarian Debate, Feminist Perspectives

10/9: Amy Gutmann, "Communitarian Critics of Liberalism" (on reserve)

10/11: Penny Weiss, “Feminism and Communitarianism” (on reserve)

Week 9: Theory—Feminist Perspectives, Cont.

10/16: Marilyn Friedman, “Feminism and Modern Friendship” (on reserve)

10/18: Jane Mansbridge, “Feminism and Democratic Community” (on reserve)

Week 10: Theory--Postmodern Perspectives

10/23: Michel Foucault, “Two Lectures” (on reserve)

10/25: William Corlett, *Community without Unity*, selections (on reserve)

Week 11: Policy—Participatory Democracy, “Liberal Communitarianism”

10/30: John Dewey, “The Great Community” (on reserve); Richard Rorty, “What’s Wrong with ‘Rights’” (on reserve)

11/1: William Sullivan, “A Renewal of Civic Philosophy” (on reserve)

Week 12: Policy—Participatory Democracy, “Liberal Communitarianism” cont.

11/6: Benjamin Barber, “Strong Democracy” (on reserve)

•**paper second stage due 11/6**

11/8: Charles Taylor, “No Community, No Democracy” (on reserve)

Week 13: Policy—Letting Civil Society Work: “Conservative Communitarianism”

11/13: George Carey and Bruce Frohnen, “Introduction” (on reserve)

11/15: Alasdair MacIntyre, “The Concept of a Tradition” (on reserve)

Week 14: Thanksgiving Holiday: NO CLASS

Week 15: Policy—Letting Civil Society Work: “Conservative Communitarianism” cont.

11/27: Richard Neuhaus and Peter Berger, “To Empower the People: The Role of Mediating Structures in Public Policy” (on reserve)

11/29: Bruce Murray, “Faith-Based Initiatives: Following a New Course of Social Service in America” (on reserve)

Week 16: Policy—Some Final Words

12/4: Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, Chaps 23-24; Alan Wolfe, “Developing Civil Society: Can the Workplace Replace Bowling?” (on reserve)

12/6: Bellah et. al., *Habits of the Heart*, Chap 11

• **final stage paper due Wednesday 12/13**