Conservatives are not necessarily stupid, but most stupid people are conservatives.  *John Stuart Mill*

*Any man who is under 30, and is not a liberal, has not heart; and any man who is over 30, and is not a conservative, has no brains.*  *Winston Churchill*

**COURSE READINGS:**

The following books are available at the Wellesley College Bookstore:

- Berkowitz, Peter, ed.  *Varieties of Conservatism in America*
- Dillard, Angela D.  *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner Now?: Multicultural Conservatism in America*
- D’Souza, Dinesh  *Letters to a Young Conservative*
- Eberstadt, Mary, ed.  *Why I Turned Right: Leading Baby Boom Conservatives Chronicle Their Political Journeys*
- Muller, Jerry Z., ed.  *Conservatism: An Anthology of Social and Political Thought from David Hume to the Present*
- Scruton, Roger  *Culture Counts: Faith and Feeling in a World Besieged*
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two, typewritten, 8-10 page papers.

One, typewritten, term paper, 15-20 pages.

Two, class presentations, based on course readings

The three papers assigned, in addition to class attendance, presentations, and participation, form the basis for a grade during the term.


3) Term Paper: Multicultural and Generational Conservatisms: DUE: End of Finals

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

September 6: Introduction to the Course. Explanation of Assignments.

Background Reading: “Conservatism.” Entry in American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia.

Part One: Conservatism in Historical Perspective

September 13: America and France, circa 1800, Two Types of Revolution

Readings: Edmund Burke, Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol, pp. 3-6 (distributed in class).

Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France, pp. 7-40 (distributed in class).

Edmund Burke, “Preface” to A Vindication of Natural Society, in Muller, pp. 63-69.

James Madison, “Federalist No. 49,” in Muller, pp. 146-151.
September 20: Conservatism and Inequality


Joseph A. Schumpeter, “Aptitude and Social Mobility,” in Muller, pp. 222-232,

Edward Banfield, “The Future of the Lower Class” (*The Unheavenly City Revisited*), in Muller, pp. 338-357.

September 27: Conservatism and Progress (or Modernity)


William Graham Sumner, “Sociological Fallacies, etc.,” in Muller, pp. 233-248.

Part Two: Defining Contemporary Conservatism

October 4: What is Conservatism Now?

First Paper Due


October 11: Conservatism and Libertarianism


October 18: Conservatism and the Idea of Culture

Readings: Roger Scruton, Culture Counts: Faith and Feeling in a World Besieged

Philip Rieff, “Toward a Theory of Culture,” in Muller, pp. 411-420.


October 25: Culture Wars, part 1


November 1: Culture Wars, part 2

Readings: Dinesh D’Souza, Letters to a Young Conservative

November 8: Diversities of Conservatism: Generations

Second Paper Due

Readings: Mary Eberstadt, Why I Turned Right: Leading Baby Boom Conservatives Chronicle Their Political Journeys
November 15: Diversities of Conservatism: Minorities

**Readings:** Angela D. Dillard, *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner Now? Multicultural Conservatism in America*, chapters 1-3.

November 29: Multicultural Conservatism

**Readings:** Dillard, chapter 4 and Conclusion

December 6: Brief Reports on Term Projects