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*

Muller, Jerry Z., ed.  
*Conservatism: An Anthology of Social and Political Thought from David Hume to the Present*

Scruton, Roger  
*The Meaning of Conservatism*
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.

1) Conservatism in Perspective (Legacies): DUE: October 5.
3) Term Paper: Multicultural Conservatisms: DUE: End of Final Exams

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

September 7: Introduction to the Course. Explanation of Assignments.

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

Part One: Conservatism in Historical Perspective

September 14: America and France, circa 1800, Two Types of Revolution


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 21: Conservatism and Inequality

**Readings:**
- 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 28: Conservatism and Progress (or Modernity)

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

**Part Two: Defining Contemporary Conservatism**

October 5: What is Conservatism Now?

**First Paper Due**

**Readings:**
October 12: Conservatism and Libertarianism


October 19: Conservatism and the Idea of Culture


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


October 26: Culture Wars, part 1


November 2: Culture Wars, part 2

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

November 9: Diversities of Conservatism: Women

Second Paper Due


McElroy, Liberty for Women (to be selected by class)
November 16: Diversities of Conservatism: Minorities

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

November 30: Multicultural Conservatism

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

December 7: Brief Reports on Term Projects