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*

Henrie, Mark C., ed. *Arguing Conservatism: Four Decades of the Intercollegiate Review*

Lyons, Paul *American Conservatism: Thinking It, Teaching It*

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

Story, Ronald *The Rise of Conservatism in America*
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 1.
2) Defining Contemporary Conservatism (Strategies): DUE: November 5.
3) Term Paper: Multicultural and Generational Conservatisms: DUE: End of Finals

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

September 4: Introduction to the Course. Explanation of Assignments.

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

Part One: Conservatism in Historical Perspective

September 10: 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 17: 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 24: Conservatism, Tradition, and Progress (or Modernity)

**Readings:**


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


Part Two: Defining Contemporary Conservatism

October 1: What is Conservatism Now?

**First Paper Due**

**Readings:**


October 8: Conservatism and Libertarianism


October 15: Conservatives on Culture and Education


October 22: Culture Wars


Peter Berkowitz, “If they can find time for feminist theory, they can find time for Edmund Burke” in The Wall Street Journal (June 19, 2009). (e-reserve)

October 29: The Necessity of More than One Point of View

Readings: Paul Lyons, American Conservatism: Thinking It, Teaching It
November 5: Diversities of Conservatism: Generations

**Second Paper Due**

**Readings:** Peter Berkowitz, “The Longer Way” (e-reserve)

Commentaries on Mary Eberstadt’s edited anthology, *Why I Turned Right: Leading Baby Boom Conservatives Chronicle Their Political Journeys* (e-reserve)

November 12: Diversities of Conservatism: Minorities

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

November 19: Multicultural Conservatism

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

December 3: Rethinking Conservatism


December 10: Brief Reports on Term Projects