



UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA
INSTITUTO DE ESTUDOS POLÍTICOS

Conservatism
(2019 – 2020)

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What do we talk about when we talk about conservatism? A disposition? An ideology? A set of principles and values substantially constant over the course of time, regardless of the historical circumstances that explain the emergence of conservatism as an ideology? The objective of the course is to try to answer some of these questions, taking as the starting point some reference authors within the British, French and North American conservative traditions.

1. Conservatism as a *disposition* and conservatism as an *ideology*

2. On British conservatism

- 2.1. Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790)
- 2.2. Benjamin Disraeli, *Sybil, or The Two Nations* (1845)
- 2.3. Winston Churchill, “Speech on Rebuilding the House of Commons” (1943)
- 2.4. Michael Oakeshott, “Rationalism in Politics” (1947)
- 2.5. Roger Scruton, *The Uses of Pessimism and the Dangers of False Hope* (2010)

3. On French conservatism

- 3.1. Joseph de Maistre, *Considerations sur la France* (1797)
- 3.2. François-René de Chateaubriand, *Génie du christianisme* (1802)

- 3.3. Tocqueville, Alexis de, *De la démocratie en Amérique* (1835) e *L'Ancien Régime et la Révolution* (1856)
- 3.4. Maurice Barrès, *Les Déracinés* (1897)
- 3.5. Raymond Aron, *L'Opium des intellectuels* (1957)

4. On American conservatism

- 4.1. James Madison, “Federalist No. 10” (1787) e “Federalist No. 51”, *The Federalist Papers* (1788)
- 4.2. Rufus Choate, “The Position and Functions of the American Bar, as an Element of Conservatism in the State” (1845)
- 4.3. Irving Kristol, *Neoconservatism: The Autobiography of an Idea* (1995)
- 4.4. John Kekes, *A Case for Conservatism* (1998)

5. Conservatism and its critics

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

In addition to the specific texts regarding the issues under analysis and which will be provided to the students over the course of the sessions, the following general reference works are also recommended:

Frohen, Bruce, Jeremy Beer e Jeffrey O. Nelson, orgs., *American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia*. Wilmington: ISI Books, 2006.

Giubilei, Francesco, *The History of European Conservative Thought*, tradução de Rachel Stone. Washington: Regnery, 2019.

Green, E.H.H., *Ideologies of Conservatism: Conservative Political Ideas in the Twentieth-Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Lawrence, Lawrence, “Conservative Political Thought from the revolutions of 1848 until the *fin de siècle*.” *The Cambridge History of*

Nineteenth-Century Political Thought, organização de Gareth Stedman Jones e Gregory Claeys, pp. 619–719. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Lukes, Steven, “Epilogue: The grand dichotomy of the twentieth century.” *The Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century Political Thought*, organização de Terence Ball e Richard Bellamy, pp. 602 – 626. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

McMahon, Darrin M., *Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

O’Sullivan, Noel, “Conservatism.” *The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies*, organização de Michael Freeden, Lyman Tower Sargent e Marc Stears, pp. 294 – 311. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Quinton, Anthony. *The Politics of Imperfection: The religious and secular traditions of conservative thought in England from Hooker to Oakeshott*. Londres: Faber and Faber, 1978.

Scruton, Roger, *Conservatism: An Invitation to the Great Tradition*. Nova Iorque: St. Martin’s Press, 2018.

GRADING:

Written test – 50%

Take-home exam (2000 words max.) – 50%