



UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA
INSTITUTO DE ESTUDOS POLÍTICOS

CONSERVATISMS

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2nd Semester 2024/25 – 5.5 ECTS

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

1. Conservatism as a *dispostion* and conservatism as an *ideology*
2. Two faces of conservatism: liberal and antiliberal
3. Against the Revolution: Edmund Burke and Joseph de Maistre
4. The Age of Equality: Benjamin Disraeli and Maurice Barrès
5. The Totalitarian Temptation: Carl Schmitt and Michael Oakeshott
6. Conservatism today: an American debate

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:

I. On Conservatism

Fawcett, Edmund, *Conservatism: The Fight for a Tradition* (Princeton:

Princeton University Press, 2020)

Neill, Edmund, *Conservatism* (London: Polity, 2021)

Oakeshott, Michael, *Rationalism in Politics and Other Essays*.

Foreword by Timothy Fuller (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1991)

Quinton, Anthony, *The Politics of Imperfection: The religious and secular traditions of conservative thought in England from Hooker to Oakeshott* (London: Faber & Faber, 1978)

II. Burke and Maistre

Armenteros, Carolina and Richard A. Lebrun, eds., *Joseph de Maistre*

and the Legacy of Enlightenment (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation-University of Oxford, 2011)

Burke, Edmund, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Forward by Francis Canavan. (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1999)

Jones, Emily, *Edmund Burke and the invention of modern conservatism, 1830-1914 – An Intellectual History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019)

Maistre, Joseph de, *Considerations on France*. Edited by Richard A. Lebrun, with an introduction by Isaiah Berlin. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

III. Disraeli and Barrès

Disraeli, Benjamin, *Sybil: or The Two Nations*. Edited with an

Introduction and notes by Nicholas Shrimpton (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

_____, *Whigs and Whiggism: Political Writings, 1833 – 1853*. Edited with an Introduction by William Hutcheon (Washington: Regnery, 2006)

Barrès, Maurice, *Les Déracinés*. (Paris: Bartillat, 2022)

Sternhell, Zeev, *Maurice Barrès et le nationalisme français* (Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2014)

Ziblatt, Daniel, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017)

IV. Oakeshott and Schmitt

Meierhenrich, Jens and Oliver Simons, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Carl Schmitt* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Oakeshott, Michael, *On Human Conduct* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990)

Podoksik, Efraim, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Oakeshott* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Schmitt, Carl, *The Concept of the Political*. Translated and with an Introduction by George Schwab. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996).

V. On American conservatism

Deneen, Patrick, *Regime Change: Towards a Postliberal Future* (New York: Sentinel, 2023)

Hazon, Yoram, *Conservatism: A Rediscovery* (Washington, D.C.: Regnery, 2022)

Kekes, John, *Moderate Conservatism: Reclaiming the Center* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023)

GRADING:

- Written test
- Group work with oral presentation