Conservative Political Thought

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Conservatism is an approach to political life that emphasizes prudence, tradition, and incremental change. For that reason, it is sometimes described as a practice of politics without a theory. Yet there is a large body of normative and analytical political theory in the conservative tradition. This course will introduce students to both classical and contemporary works of conservative political thought. The purpose is to consider the main theories of conservatism and how they have been applied to political practice. An emphasis will be placed on understanding the internal logic and different strands of conservative political thought and to the ways that it has responded to contemporary challenges.