

The Conservative View in U.S. History

HIST 455

Dr. Bean

M 5:00-7:30



This seminar traces the evolution of American conservative and libertarian thought, from the eighteenth century to the present day. We begin by defining “conservatism.” Why is it considered a “problem” for historians? How does American conservatism differ from its European counterparts? What do traditionalists, neoconservatives, and libertarians have in common? Where do they disagree?

Student Learning Objectives: Through this course, students will examine, discuss and debate conservative and libertarian involvement in important historical movements including abolitionism, feminism, and anticommunism. Seminar participants will discuss the conservative response to Progressivism, the New Deal, and the Great Society. Finally, we will explore contemporary conservative perspectives on assorted issues, including race relations, religion, abortion, immigration, and the welfare state.

This is a hybrid seminar: you may participate in person or via Zoom (enroll in 980 section for Zoom). Space limited.