



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA  
LISBOA

Course Unit Program  
Political Thought of the Western World

Academic Year 2023/2024

**1. Organic Unit**

Faculty of Law

**2. Course**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**3. Cycle**

1st

**4. Course Unit**

Political Thought of the Western World (07404)

**5. Scientific Area**

**6. Curricular Year**

1st

**7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester**

2nd Semester



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#### 8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:

Practical classes:

Theoretical-Practical Classes 30,00

Tutorial Guidance: 20,00

#### 9. ECTS Credits

6,00

#### 10. Scientific Area Coordinator

#### 11. Regent

Prof. Doutor MANUEL FERNANDO DA SILVA MONTEIRO

#### 12. Assistants

#### 13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

#### 14. General Objectives

1. Understand the importance of POLITICAL IDEAS in defining models of society.
2. Relate POLITICAL IDEAS and their foundations to the meanings of Justice, Freedom, and Security.
3. Recognize that the purpose of political action should always presuppose the existence of principles, without which human life is devoid of meaning and foundation.
4. Understand Political Ideas in the context of competition among national and international political actors.

#### 15. Specific Objectives

1. Understand the evolution of political thought in the West, from Ancient Greece to the present, in order to grasp the identity matrix of the Western world.
2. Contribute to a solid human education based on the development of critical thinking and the perception and acceptance of different Ideas, an essential condition for embracing a just world with freedom and peace.



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#### **16. Skills to be acquired**

- Identification and understanding of the main currents of political thought in the Western world .
- Appreciation of the diversity of Political Ideas as a distinctive and unifying element of the Western world.

#### **17. Teaching Methodology**

The teaching of this discipline comprises:

- Theoretical-Practical classes, for the transmission of content and the illustration of specific situations related to those contents.
- Tutorial Orientation classes aimed at helping students with proper bibliographic research and a correct understanding of the topics covered.

#### **18. Course Unit Program**



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## PART I

### ANCIENT GREECE AND THE CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION

#### Chapter I

##### The Emergence of Political Ideas

##### 1. What are Political Ideas?

##### 1.1. The concept of Political Ideas

##### 1.2. Distinguishing between the concepts of Political Ideas, Political Doctrines, Political Ideologies, and Political Conceptions

##### 1.3. The history of Political Ideas

##### 2. Political Ideas in Ancient Greece

##### 2.1. The birth of Democracy

##### 2.1.1. Pericles and the defense of Democracy

##### 2.2. Plato and the early communist ideas

##### 2.3. Aristotle: the polis, the birth of political pluralism, and the origin of Political Science.

#### Chapter II

##### Christian Thought in the Middle Ages

##### 1. Christianity

##### 1.1. A new conception of the origin and exercise of political power

##### 2. St. Augustine, the conception of man and political power

##### 3. St. Thomas Aquinas, the optimistic view of man and popular sovereignty

## PART II

### FROM POLITICAL AMORALISM TO CHRISTIAN HUMANISM

#### Chapter I

##### Political Realism

##### 1. Machiavelli: the emergence of the STATE

##### 1.1. Politics separated from morality

##### 1.2. The replacement of polis and respublica by the State

##### 1.3. Power and modern political science

#### Chapter II

##### The Limits of Political Activity

##### 1. Christian Humanism and Politics

##### 2. The response to Machiavelli: Erasmus and the Christian Prince

##### 3. Thomas More's Utopia

##### 3.1. The first utopian socialism

## PART III

### FROM STRONG STATE TO LIMITED GOVERNMENT

#### Chapter I



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## Sovereignty and the Absolute State

1. Jean Bodin and the new concept of Sovereignty
2. Thomas Hobbes and the justification of Authoritarianism

## Chapter II

### Liberalism and the Distribution of Powers

1. The early liberal ideas: what is political liberalism?
2. John Locke: the freedom and equality of men.
3. Montesquieu: the distribution of powers and forms of government

## PART IV

### FROM POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

#### Chapter I

1. The "good man" and Direct Democracy

#### Chapter II

### National Sovereignty and Political Representation

1. Joseph Sieyès: from the "Third Estate" to the idea of Nation
2. The idea of Constitution

## PART V

### POLITICAL REVOLUTIONS

#### Chapter I

### The American Revolution

1. Origins and Main Ideas

#### Chapter II

### The French Revolution

1. Origins and Main Ideas

#### Chapter III

### The Socialist Revolution

1. Socialisms
2. Introduction to the thought of Karl Marx
3. The revisionism of Edward Bernstein

#### Chapter IV

### The Communist Revolution

1. The origins of the Russian Revolution and Marxist-Leninism
2. The Chinese Revolution (brief reference)

#### Chapter V

### The Fascist Revolution and National Socialism

1. Fascism
2. National Socialism

## PART VI

### THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO LIBERALISM AND SOCIALISM: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY

#### Chapter I



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The "First" Christian Democracy  
Chapter II  
The "Second" Christian Democracy

PART VII  
TOTALITARIANISM  
Chapter I  
From the origins of Totalitarianism to Totalitarian Regimes  
Chapter II  
Totalitarianism and Democracy  
1. Modern heirs of totalitarianism  
2. Liberal democracy and totalitarian manifestations in the democratic state

#### 19. Assessment Methods

1. Continuous assessment follows the current Regulations and may be subject to modification according to University guidelines.
2. Continuous assessment will depend on:
  - a. Attendance and participation in classes.
  - b. Positive performance in two written tests.
3. Optionally, there may be a written assignment with an oral presentation.
4. Attendance and participation in extracurricular activities (optional) will also be valued according to the weight defined by the University Regulations

#### 20. Didactic Resources

- News articles taken from newspapers, magazines, and audiovisual media.
- Media library
- Computer facilities with internet connection

#### 21. Sustainability Objectives

Assuming that sustainable education goes beyond the mere presentation of curriculum content, we define here three main objectives:

1. Promotion of critical analytical thinking
2. Continuous distinction between mere information and education
3. Education aimed at the free determination of future choices

#### 22. Keywords



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- Ideas
- Ideologies
- City
- State
- Politics
- Power
- Sovereignty
- Humanism

### 23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): MONTEIRO, Manuel  
Title: Tópicos sobre As Ideias Políticas no Ocidente e a sua História  
Edition: 1ª, 3ª reimp. Year: 2022  
Local: Lisboa  
Publisher: Universidade Lusíada Editora

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Author(s): AMARAL, Diogo Freitas do,  
Title: História do Pensamento Político Ocidental  
Edition: Reimpressão da Year: 2018  
Local: Coimbra  
Publisher: Almedina

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Author(s): BANOND, Isabel  
Title: História das Ideias Políticas  
Edition: 1ª Year: 2014  
Local: Parede  
Publisher: Principia

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### 24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): SABINE, George H.,  
Title: Historia de la teoria politica  
Edition: 3ª em espanhol Year: 2011  
Local: Mexico  
Publisher: Fondo de Cultura Económica

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Author(s): PRÉLOT, Marcel, LESCUYER, Georges  
Title: História das Ideias Políticas (2vols.)  
Edition: 1ª Year: 2001  
Local: Lisboa  
Publisher: Presença

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