UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Political Thought of the Western World

Academic Year 2024/2025

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		

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

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

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		

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

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor MANUEL FERNANDO DA SILVA MONTEIRO
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