



Democracy in Western Political Thought

Academic Year 2018/2019
1st Semester 9h

Prof. João Pereira Coutinho
3 ECTS

- **Overview of the goals of the course**

A broad overview of the history of the concept of democracy – from Ancient Greece to the 21st Century.

- **Requirements students are expected to meet**

Students are expected to read the designated texts and to take part in the discussions during the classes.

- **Evaluation**

Take-home exam (2500 words max.) – 100%

- **Course outline**

This usually **includes the readings** for the particular day or week, and may also include study questions for which students will be responsible on a particular day.

1. The Greeks: Plato and Aristotle

Pericles, “Funeral Oration” (in Thucydides’ History of the Peloponnesian War”)

Xenophon, “Xenophon, 'The Polity of the Athenians and the Lacedaemonians”

Platon, “Republic” (selections)

Aristotle, “Politics” (selections)

2. The Romans: Polybius and Cicero

Polybius, “The Histories” (selections)

Cicero, “Laws” (selections)

3. The British: Locke, Burke and Paine

Locke, “Second Treatise” (selections)

Burke, “Reflections on the Revolution in France” (selections)

Paine, “Rights of Man” (selections)



4. The Americans: Madison and The Federalist

Readings:

The Federalist, nos. 10 and 51

5. The French: Sieyès, Robespierre and Tocqueville

Readings:

Sieyès, “What is the Third Estate”

Robespierre, “Virtue and Terror” (selections)

Tocqueville, “Democracy in America” (selections)

6. The Dictators: Lenin and Hitler

Readings:

Lenin, “Revolution and the State”

Hitler, “My Struggle” (selections)

- **Bibliography**

(in addition to the Classics):

CARTLEDGE, Paul. *Democracy: A Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

CRICK, Bernard. *Democracy. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

DUNN, John. *Setting the People Free – The Story of Democracy*. London: Atlantic Books, 2006.

KEANE, John. *The Life and Death of Democracy*. London: Pocket Books, 2010.