

CURSOS DA ARRÁBIDA
IV COURSE IN POLITICAL THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 30 - 4, 1996

Co-ordinator: João Carlos Espada
Research Fellow, Institute of Social Sciences, Lisbon
Invited Professor, Brown University, USA

“LIBERTY, VIRTUE AND SELF-INTEREST”

Introduction

What is the role of virtue, if there is one, in a society based on liberty and on the legitimacy of the pursuit of self-interest? Is Liberalism, or should Liberalism, be neutral towards particular conceptions of Good? Why do liberal societies value liberty so much? Does liberty have frontiers or does it assume the existence of a group of basic virtues, of which it is only one of them? What is its relationship with religion and with traditional morals? Is there a connection between Liberalism and the Judaeo-Christian religion, and, if this connection exists, should political liberalism recognise it? These are some of the questions we would like to discuss in this year's course in Political Theory.

Student Profile

Attendants to this course do not need to have a technical background on Political Theory, provided that they have a genuine interest in the matters being discussed and that they are aware of the fact that some of the discussions may include a strong technical component. We warmly welcome applications from students and scholars who are not residents in Portugal.

September 30

4 p.m.

“Why Do We Value Liberty? A Popperian Approach”

João Carlos Espada, Senior Research, Institute of Social Sciences, Lisbon

October 1

10 a.m.

“Liberal Purposes”

William Galston, University of Maryland

5 p.m.

“The Meaning of Moral Conflict”

Steven Lukes, European University Institute of Florence

October 2

10 a.m.

“Liberalism Beyond Justice”

John Tomasi, Brown University

5 p.m.

**“John Stuart Mill’s Liberalism and
The Enlightenment Project”**

John Gray, Jesus College, Oxford

October 3

10 a.m.

**“Liberty and Virtue as Perceived by the
American Revolution Founding Fathers”**

Gordon S. Wood, Brown University

5 p.m.

“Should the Liberal State Be Neutral ?”

João Rosas, Minho University, Portugal

October 4

10 a.m.

“Liberty, Virtue and Self-Interest”

Diogo Freitas do Amaral, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations.