Tradition of Liberty

Academic Year 2018/2019
1st Semester / 18h

Prof. João Carlos Espada
6 ECTS

I. Introduction
Ralf Dahrendorf and the two concepts of democracy.
The question about the effect of John Locke’s ideas on the European Continent.
Program outline and methodology.

II. Limited government and civil society pluralism
Two theories of democracy: Karl Popper.
Representative government as limited government: Edmund Burke.
Liberty as dispersion of power: Rousseau vs. Tocqueville, Stuart Mill e I. Berlin.
Civil pluralism versus militant monism: F. A. Hayek and Michael J. Oakeshott.

III. Dogmatic rationalism at the origins of relativism
Relativism as a threat to liberty: Popper, Hayek, Berlin e Strauss.
Rationalism: Critical or Dogmatic? Popper, Hayek and Oakeshott.
The road from dogmatic rationalism to dogmatic relativism: Oakeshott, Popper and Hayek.

IV. Non-comprehensive answers to Relativism: Liberty as a gentlemanly conversation.
Liberty as Conversation: Popper, Oakeshott and Strauss.
The dialogue between faith and reason: Tocqueville and Gertrude Himmelfarb.
Liberty as the protection of the existing ways of living: Locke and the effect of “alcohol in an empty stomach”.

Basic Bibliography

Overall view of the programme (these books are available at UCP bookshop):


Basic texts by the authors discussed in the programme:

(A booklet with a selection of texts by the authors discussed in the programme is available at the copy shop of UCP).

Some basic references:


HAYEK, F. A., *O Caminho para a Servidão* (Lisboa, Edições 70, 2007, [ed. or. 1944]).


Further Bibliography

Main works by Karl Popper


Main works on Karl Popper


Main works on F.A. Hayek

Main works by Michael J. Oakeshott
Experience and Its Modes, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1933.

Main works on Michael J. Oakeshott
Main works by Isaiah Berlin


Main works on Isaiah Berlin


**Main works by Leo Strauss**


*On Tyranny: An Interpretation of Xenophon’s ‘Hiero’*, New York: Political Science Classics, 1948.


*Natural Right and History*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1953.


**Main works on Leo Strauss**


**Main works by Alexis de Tocqueville**


*Journey to America (1831-1832)*, translated into English by George Lawrence, J. P. Mayer, Yale University Press, 1960.


Main works on Alexis de Tocqueville


Main works by Edmund Burke


The *Speeches of Right Honourable Edmund Burke*, 4 vols., London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown, 1816.


Main works on Edmund Burke


PRIOR, Sir James, *A Life of Edmund Burke*, London: George Bell and Sons, 1908.
STRAUSS, Leo, *Natural Right and History*, University of Chicago Press, 1953.

**Main works by Winston S. Churchill**

*Savrola*, New York: Longmans Green, 1899.

**Main works on Winston Churchill**