



## The Vital Centre, Liberal Democracy and the Virtue of Civility

Ano Académico 2024/2025

[Professor João Carlos Espada]

[2º] Semester 12 sessions [18 hours]

[6] ECTS

### Program

1. **The Vital Centre, the Open Society, and “The Good Society”.** [Walter Lippmann, *The Good Society*. London: George Allen & Unwin LTD, 1937/1943].
2. **Winston Churchill: From Conservative (1900-1904), to Liberal (1904-1924) to Conservative (1924-1965).** [ Martin Gilbert, *Churchill’s Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1980].
3. **The Third Wave of World Democratisation (I): Portugal, Spain and Greece.** [Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Norman and London: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1991].
4. **The Third Wave of World Democratisation (II): The Democratic ‘Revolutions’ in Central and Eastern Europe according to Ralf Dahrendorf.** [Ralf Dahrendorf, *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe*. New York, Random House, 1990].
5. **The Third Wave of World Democratisation (III): Mário Soares, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and the National Endowment for Democracy.** [Marc F. Plattner, Joao C. Espada (editors), *The Democratic Invention*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000].
6. **The Democratic Recession in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century according to Larry Diamond and Anne Applebaum.** [Larry Diamond, *Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition and American Complacency*. New York: Penguin Press, 2019; Anne Applebaum, *Autocracy, Inc.: The Dictators Who Want to Run the World*. London and New York: Penguin Random House, 2024].



7. **Ingredients of Liberal Democracy (I) according to Edward Shills: The Virtue of Civility.** [Edward Shills, *The Virtue of Civility: Selected Essays on Liberalism, Tradition, and Civil Society*, Edited by Steven Grosby, Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1997].
8. **Ingredients of Liberal Democracy (II) according to Anthony Quinton: The Politics of Imperfection.** [Anthony Quinton, *The Politics of Imperfection: The religious and secular traditions of conservative thought in England from Hooker to Oakeshott*. London and Boston: Faber and Faber, 1978].
9. **Ingredients of Liberal Democracy (III) according to Karl Popper and Ralf Dahrendorf: General Rules as Opposed to End-States to Be Achieved.** [Ralf Dahrendorf, *After 1989: Morals, Revolution and Civil Society*. London and New York: Macmillan/St. Antony's College, 1997]. Karl Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1945/1966].
10. **Recalling Three Revolutions of the Modern Age: The English (1688), the American (1776) and the French (1789) [I].** [*Sobre Cinco Revoluções da Era Moderna*, Lisboa, Tribuna da História, 2024].
11. **Recalling Three Revolutions of the Modern Age: The English (1688), the American (1776) and the French (1799) [II].** [*Sobre Cinco Revoluções da Era Moderna*, Lisboa, Tribuna da História, 2024].
12. **Liberal Democracy, The Vital Centre and the Virtue of Civility: An Overview.**

## Evaluation

The teaching is of a theoretical and practical nature, in which the presentation of the various thematic nucleus' is combined with the participation of students in the class. The evaluation of the module results from a written element that covers the various topics taught.

Written exam without consultation (100% of the Final Grade)

The attendance, participation and interest expressed by the student during the classes, as well as the possibility of preparing an optional essay on a theme chosen by the student, are taken into, and the final grade may suffer the increase or decrease of 1 value.