

## **Political Philosophy & North-American Philosophy**

**(1st Semester 2020-2021)**

**Viriato Soromenho-Marques**

### **Calendar:**

**From October 2<sup>nd</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tuesday: 14 00-15 30h (Zoom class)**

**Wednesday: 11 00-12 30h (Faculty class)**

**Friday: 14 00. 15 30h (Faculty class)**

### **A Political Philosophy Approach to the Struggles for Democracy**

#### **in the American Experiment.**

From the War of Independence (1775-1783) until to the 21st century the North-American political experience has been defined by huge political transformations (the constitutional debate on republican federalism, the question of slavery within the broader reasons that ended in the Civil War/War between the States, Reconstruction and Segregation, the new status of World Power after the WWI, The New Deal, the dismantling of Segregation and the “nationalization” of the Bill of Rights...). In all of these historical transformations of American political and social institutions we may identify a wide range of philosophical concepts and principles used as grounding blocks for gaining legitimacy in the public sphere. In this course some of these categories and philosophical debates, linked to the core subject of democracy, will be submitted to analysis and discussion.

The course activities will be based and supported in the study and discussion of an extensive list of readings that will be accessible to the students since the start of classes.

**Evaluation criteria are as follows:**

- **1 theoretical test at the end of the course (50%)**
- **1 practical test (20%)**
- **Individual oral presentations that may be replaced by a second written assignment (20%)**
- **Participation and attendance (10%)**

**Bibliography**

1. Boorstin, Daniel J. ed. 1985. *An American Primer*, New York, Meridian Classic.
2. Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison and John Jay. 1961. *The Federalist*, edited by J. E. Cooke edition, Cleveland and New York, Meridian Books. (Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison e John Jay. 2011. *O Federalista*, tradução, introdução e notas de Viriato Soromenho-Marques e João Duarte, Lisboa, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian).
3. Kenyon, Ceclilia M. ed. 1985. *The Antifederalists*, Boston, Northeastern University Press.
4. Rosas, João Cardoso (coordenador), 2020, *História da Filosofia Política*, Lisboa, Editorial Presença.
5. Soromenho-Marques, Viriato. 2011. *Tópicos de Filosofia e Ciência Política: Federalismo. Das Raízes Americanas aos Dilemas Europeus*, Lisboa, Esfera do Caos.
6. Soromenho-Marques, Viriato. 2012. "Who Are We, Europeans? What Europeans Can Learn from the USA about Their Own Political identity", in *Ideas of/for Europe. An Interdisciplinary Approach to European Identity*, Teresa Pinheiro, Beata Cieszynska and José Eduardo Franco (eds.), Frankfurt am Main -Berlin- Bern- Bruxelles- New York- Oxford- Wien, Peter Lang, pp. 413-423.