



FACULDADE DE DIREITO  
Universidade de Lisboa

## Course Description

Degree in Law 2025/2026

### 1. Name of Course:

Political Science –B

### 2. Additional Information:

Duration: Semester  Year   
Working Hours: 168 hours ECTS  
Credits: 6

### 3. Responsible teacher and respective teaching load in the course unit:

Miguel Prata Roque (2 hours/week)

### 4. Other teachers and their respective teaching loads in the course unit:

João Tomé Pilão (8 hours/week)

Roberto Ornelas Monteiro (2 hours/week)

### 5. Learning objectives (knowledge, skills, and competencies to be developed by students):

- a) Understand and analyze, according to scientific methods, politics and the exercise of power;
- b) Understand and analyze, using scientific methods, the contemporary phenomenon of the loss of centrality of formal bodies exercising political power and the multiplication of de facto centers of power;
- c) Master the concepts of political regimes, forms of government, and electoral systems in order to understand the institutional functioning of the apparatus of power;
- d) Critically analyze methods of communication and political propaganda, with a view to strengthening political participation and bringing representatives and those they represent closer together;
- e) Know, analyze, and critically apply the legislation that regulates the exercise of political functions; in particular, the political party system, the status of the right to opposition, electoral laws, and the system of accountability for political office holders;
- f) Know, analyze, and critically apply the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court and the National Election Commission on internal democracy in political parties, the electoral system, and political propaganda.

### 6. Program content:



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The analytical study of politics as a science

- 1.1.1. Politics as a phenomenological fact
- 1.1.2. Empirical theses: politics as art

- 1.1.3. Scientific theses: politics as an object of experimental analysis

### 1.2. The object of political science

- 1.2.1. Formalist theses: the public apparatus
- 1.2.2. Institutional theses: political institutions (including private ones)
- 1.2.3. Materialist theses: the structures of public power

### 1.3. The function of political science

- 1.3.1. Instrument of conquest and domination
- 1.3.2. An instrument of transparency and democratic control
- 1.3.3. Instrument of reform and transformation
- 1.3.4. Instrument of governance
- 1.3.5. An instrument of influence and education

## 2. The seat of power

### 2.1. Public institutions

- 2.1.1. Public
  - 2.1.1.1. States
    - 2.1.1.1.1. Parliaments
    - 2.1.1.1.2. Governments
    - 2.1.1.1.3. Public administration
    - 2.1.1.1.4. Courts
  - 2.1.1.2. International organizations
  - 2.1.1.3. Transnational networks

- 2.1.2. Private
  - 2.1.2.1. Economic power
  - 2.1.2.2. Financial power
  - 2.1.2.3. Technological power
  - 2.1.2.4. Scientific power
  - 2.1.2.5. Communicational power
  - 2.1.2.6. Clandestine power

### 2.2. Political systems

- 2.2.1. Presidential
- 2.2.2. Semi-presidential
- 2.2.3. Parliamentary
- 2.2.4. Rationalized parliamentary
- 2.2.5. Governmental (or cabinet)
- 2.2.6. Presidential system with a head of government

## 3. Access to power

### 3.1. The contenders



- 3.1.1. Parties
- 3.1.2. Citizen movements
- 3.1.3. Opponents of the regime
- 3.1.4. Interest groups
  
- 3.2. Electoral systems
  - 3.2.1. Proportional
  - 3.2.2. Majority
  - 3.2.3. Single constituency
  - 3.2.4. Multiple constituencies
  - 3.2.5. Compensation constituency
  - 3.2.6. Bicameral
  
- 3.3. Systems for appointing political office holders
  - 3.3.1. Appointment
  - 3.3.2. Inerence
  - 3.3.3. Co-optation
  
- 3.4. The elites
  - 3.4.1. Merit
  - 3.4.2. Progress
  - 3.4.3. Competition
  - 3.4.4. Endogamy
  - 3.4.5. Consanguinity
  - 3.4.6. Renewal
  
- 4. The ideology of power
  - 4.1. Party systems
    - 4.1.1. Single party
    - 4.1.2. Non-partisan
    - 4.1.3. Two-party
    - 4.1.4. Multiparty
  
  - 4.2. Political programs
    - 4.2.1. Totalitarian
      - 4.2.1.1. Dictatorial
      - 4.2.1.2. Revolutionary
      - 4.2.1.3. Military/police
  
    - 4.2.2. Authoritarian
      - 4.2.2.1. Confessional/religious
      - 4.2.2.2. Nationalist/xenophobic
      - 4.2.2.3. Tribalists
      - 4.2.2.4. Centralists
  
    - 4.2.3. Democratic
      - 4.2.3.1. Representative
      - 4.2.3.2. Direct democracy
      - 4.2.3.3. Participatory



4.2.3.4. Collaborative

5. The discourse of power

5.1. Political propaganda

- 5.1.1. Official
- 5.1.2. Pluralistic
- 5.1.3. The Spectacle State: the power of *the media*
- 5.1.4. Technology and social networks

5.2. Democratic opposition

5.2.1. Types

- 5.2.1.1. Systemic
  - 5.2.1.1.1. Parliamentary
  - 5.2.1.1.2. Regional/local
  - 5.2.1.1.3. Interest groups
- 5.2.1.2. Anti-systemic
  - 5.2.1.2.1. Autonomist
  - 5.2.1.2.2. Independence-seeking
  - 5.2.1.2.3. Anti-democratic
  - 5.2.1.2.4. Anarchist

5.3. Argumentation and rhetoric

5.3.1. Communication models

- 5.3.1.1. Centralized
- 5.3.1.2. Shared
- 5.3.1.3. Mass
- 5.3.1.4. Sectoral

5.3.2. Types of leaders

- 5.3.2.1. Charismatic
- 5.3.2.2. Technocrats
- 5.3.2.3. Conciliators
- 5.3.2.4. Antagonists
- 5.3.2.5. Spokespersons (or collectivists)
- 5.3.2.6. Snipers (or anti-system)

6. Control of power

6.1. Political control

- 6.1.1. Self-control
  - 6.1.1.1. Internal mechanisms
  - 6.1.1.2. Party mechanisms
- 6.1.2. Heterocontrol
  - 6.1.2.1. Parliamentary body
  - 6.1.2.2. Moderating body
  - 6.1.2.3. Opposition parties



FACULDADE DE DIREITO  
Universidade de Lisboa

## 6.2. Judicial review

- 6.2.1. Judicial review of laws
- 6.2.2. Judicial review of internal party democracy
- 6.2.3. Judicial review of administrative legality
- 6.2.4. Criminal liability
- 6.2.5. Financial accountability

## 6.3. Social control

- 6.3.1. Political accountability
- 6.3.2. Public opinion
- 6.3.3. The media
- 6.3.4. Trade unions
- 6.3.5. Social networks
- 6.3.6. Interest groups

## 6.4. Transnational control

### 6.4.1. International sphere

- 6.4.1.1. Multilevel constitutionalism
- 6.4.1.2. Integration into global parties and movements
- 6.4.1.3. Legal integration and sharing of sovereignty

### 6.4.2. Transnational sphere

- 6.4.2.1. Transnational networks
- 6.4.2.2. Transnational NGOs
- 6.4.2.3. Transnational companies
  - 6.4.2.3.1. Legal-public linkage: Societal Constitutional Law
  - 6.4.2.3.2. Corporate democracy
  - 6.4.2.3.3. Accountability
  - 6.4.2.3.4. Transparency
  - 6.4.2.3.5. The guarantee of justiciability (“*judicial review*”)

## 7. Demonstration of the consistency of the program content with the objectives of the course unit:

Given the six-months duration of the course, an essential content was selected for the full achievement of the above-identified objectives.

## 8. Teaching methodologies:

Theoretical teaching based on plenary classes, which aim to:

- a) Establish the methodological basis for understanding the subject matter taught;
- b) Establish the content to be assessed in practical classes and in assessment tests;
- c) Encourage critical and argumentative learning, stimulating student participation;



FACULDADE DE DIREITO  
Universidade de Lisboa

d) Contribute to a constant and permanent interconnection between theoretical teaching and practical knowledge typical of contemporary social, political, economic, cultural, scientific, and technological contexts resulting from globalization and the dematerialization of legal and political relations;

e) Contribute to the acquisition of new skills and to the training of students to resolve new legal issues arising from globalization and new forms of political power.

Practical teaching based on continuous assessment classes, which aim to:

a) Identifying and resolving practical cases in the areas of electoral law, the political party system, the status of the right to opposition, and political propaganda;

b) Study of comparative constitutional law;

b) Research and critical analysis of scientific texts by philosophers and political scientists on the topics covered;

d) Critical discussion of the crisis of democracies and, in particular, representative democracy;

e) Clarification of doubts and further exploration of topics taught in plenary classes.

#### 9. Assessment:

Method A:

- Continuous assessment, oral, in plenary classes and in practice, through the resolution of practical cases, commentary on case law and scientific articles, and answers to questions posed by the teacher – **50%** (under the terms of Article 15(1)(a) and (2), applicable *ex vi* Article 23(1) and (2) of the Assessment Regulations)

- Written essay on a topic from the program, subject to prior authorization by the teacher and presentation in class – **50%**

[pursuant to Article 15(1)(a) and (2), applicable *ex vi* Article 23(1) and (2) of the Assessment Regulations]

Note: Approval for the course is obtained by achieving a grade of **10 (ten)**, after combining the above criteria

Method B:

- No specific requirements, in accordance with the rules laid down in Articles 20 to 22, applicable *pursuant to* Article 23(3) of the Assessment Regulations.

#### 10. Demonstration of the consistency of teaching methodologies with the learning objectives of the course unit:

In accordance with the methods established by the Assessment Regulations of the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon, these methods were applied and duly adapted to fully achieve the objectives identified *above*.

#### 11. Main bibliography:

- Adriano Moreira, *Ciência Política*, Almedina, 2014

- António Marques Bessa/Jaime Nogueira Pinto, *Introdução à Política*, Volume II (O Poder, o Estado e a Classe Política), Editorial Verbo, 2001, e Volume III (Ideologias, Regimes Políticos e Ordem Internacional), Editorial Verbo, 2002



FACULDADE DE DIREITO  
Universidade de Lisboa

- Carlos Blanco de Moraes, *Sistema Político – No contexto da erosão da democracia representativa*, Almedina, Coimbra, 2017
- Gianfranco Pasquino, *Curso de Ciência Política*, Principia, Cascais, 2005;
- Jorge Reis Novais, *Teoria das Formas Políticas e dos Sistemas de Governo*, AAFDL Editora, Lisboa, 2019 (2ª edição)
- Luís Pereira Coutinho, *Teoria dos Regimes Políticos – Lições de Ciência Política*, AAFDL Editora, Lisboa, 2019
- Maurice Duverger, *Sociologia da Política*, Almedina, 1983
- Miguel Prata Roque, *Ciência Política – Guia de Estudo*, AAFDL Editora, Lisboa, 2021
- Miguel Prata Roque, *Lições de Ciência Política*, AAFDL Editora, Lisboa, 2023 (a publicar)
- Miguel Prata Roque, *Sociedade Aberta e dissenso: contributo para a compreensão contemporânea do*

**In English:**

- Ellen Grigsby, *Analysing Politics – An Introduction to Political Science*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009
- Robert E. Goodin, *The Oxford Dictionary of Political Science*, Oxford University Press, 2011
- Sheldon S. Wolin, *Politics and Vision – Continuity and Innovation in Western Political Thought*, Princeton University Press, 2016

**12. Remarks:**

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