



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Social Work and Contemporary Social Problems

Academic Year 2023/2024

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

3rd

4. Course Unit

Social Work and Contemporary Social Problems (I2004)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester



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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	20,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	10,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

10,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Stimulate reflection on the evolution of on going and emerging contemporary social problems on a planetary scale, understanding the globalization and identifying social work skills and actions to change in complex 21st century societies.

15. Specific Objectives

1. Develop reflexivity and critical analysis regarding the complexity, diversity, non-linearity and multiplicity of current societies dynamics;
2. Produce transdisciplinary debate on the global and local effect of contemporary social problems at an individual and collective level
3. Establish relationship between the evolution of contemporary social problems, the ethical and sociopolitical challenges and new spaces for research and action in social work
4. Contribute for ongoing researches

16. Skills to be acquired

- Develop reflective and analytical skills on contemporary social problems;
- Deepen inter and transdisciplinary research skills that integrate complex and multi-referential knowledge about contemporary social problems;
- Improve skills in relating theoretical references to action and research problems.



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17. Teaching Methodology

The sessions take place in a seminar format, through teacher oral presentations based on texts and other resources from authors from social sciences different disciplinary areas that contribute to knowledge and debate about social problems that affect the world. In order to encourage active participation, oral presentations will be used followed by debates carried out by students related to topics that contribute to the different themes of doctoral research.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Contemporary social problems: Complexity, interdependence, risk and uncertainty in a global society: definition and theoretical perspectives
2. The biggest social problems on a planetary scale and the challenges for humanity and social work:
 - 2.1. The colonialism consequences and the clash of cultures: Power struggles, war, terrorism, crime and violence from the global to the local
 - 2.2. Racism, xenophobia, homophobia, chauvinism and gender issues in a binary, patriarchal and ethnocentric society
 - 2.3. Capitalism, neoliberalism and consumerism: From economic and labor inequalities to the complexity of poverty and exclusion and the worsening of global socioeconomic crises
 - 2.4. Anthropocene and the ecological crisis: Relationships between human ecology, extinction and extractivism
 - 2.5. The sociodemographic crisis: From aging and urbanization to migration, refugees and human trafficking
 - 2.6. The democratic crisis: Geopolitical issues, loss of trust, policies individualization and the social rights weakening
 - 2.7. The challenges of a networked world: From technology and digital inequalities to mass media and disinformation
 - 2.8. A new development paradigm and strategies to face contemporary social problems: Skills to intervene and participate in a fair and sustainable world construction
 - 2.9. The sociopolitical and global agenda of social work and the solutions for change in facing social problems: Building social justice and combating social inequalities; build solidarities, develop social ties and confront unfair policies and practices, through building peaceful and collaborative communities and caring for common goods and the planet.

19. Assessment Methods

- 1- An oral presentation on 1 topic from the curricular unit's program, with interest for each student's individual research (50%);
- 2- A written work, a critical review of the work produced by an author indicated by the teacher relating to the same theme presented by each students. The content of this written work must articulate the knowledge with a critical view of social work in facing contemporary social problems (50%)

20. Didactic Resources

- Audiovisual resources (Computer, software, data show; sound speakers, projection screen, internet and digital platforms)
- Videos, documentaries and recommended and complementary bibliography



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21. Sustainability Objectives

This curricular unit contributes to achieving SDG2030, especially the following:

- 5 - Gender equality
- 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- 10 - Reduce inequalities
- 13 - Climate Action
- 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

22. Keywords

Social problems
Globalization
Complexity
Sustainability



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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Beck, U.
Title: Sociedade de risco mundial. Em busca da segurança perdida
Edition: 1^a Year: 2021
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Edições 70

Author(s): Wright, E. O.
Title: Como ser anticapitalista no século XXI
Edition: 1^a Year: 2022
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Edições 70

Author(s): Piketty, T.
Title: Uma breve história da igualdade
Edition: 1^a Year: 2022
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Círculo de Leitores

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Albuquerque, C. P.; Arcoverde, A.C. B.
Title: Serviço Social contemporâneo: Reflexividade e Estratégia
Edition: 1^a Year: 2017
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Pactor

Author(s): Healy, K.
Title: Trabajo Social: Perspectivas contemporáneas
Edition: 1^a Year: 2001
Local: a Coruna/Madrid
Publisher: Morata/Fundación Paideia



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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'SERVIÇO SOCIAL E PROBLEMAS SOCIAIS CONTEMPORÂNEOS': Academic Year
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO
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Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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