



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
ELECTIVE IV - ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Academic Year 2024/2025

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

LAW

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

ELECTIVE IV - ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (023B4)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

4th

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester



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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	30,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora CARLA SOFIA FRANCO LUÍS

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

The main objectives are to provide students with knowledge and critical analysis tools on elections. This will enable students to identify elections as key components of democracies, their international standards and main elements. To study the concept of electoral integrity and essential characteristics. The Portuguese electoral system. The electoral cycle approach and its components. Electoral assistance, with a special focus on electoral observation, is the final element.

15. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are to provide students with tools of knowledge and analysis of electoral processes. This knowledge is universal in nature, based on international standards. The application to Portugal, through the study of elections and the Portuguese electoral system, is a central element. The implementation at the international level, through electoral assistance and electoral observation in particular, is another essential tool.

16. Skills to be acquired

To be familiar with the concept of elections and various components of the electoral cycle. To be familiar with the concept of electoral integrity and its key elements. To be familiar with the central aspects of elections in Portugal and the Portuguese electoral system for the various elections. To know the different types of electoral systems and main characteristics. Knowledge on the concept of electoral assistance and various modalities, with a special focus on electoral observation missions



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17. Teaching Methodology

A combination of teaching methods, namely the passive method and participatory methodologies. Classes are theoretical and practical. Students are asked to present their work in the class, also as a form of assessment. Reports from international agencies are analyzed, promoting debate around the topics. Participation in classes will contribute to the final evaluation.

18. Course Unit Program



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I. Elections: key elements and electoral integrity.

1 Introduction: what is an election? What is its purpose?

2 The electoral cycle approach e: introduction.

3 Electoral integrity: what is it? Electoral integrity and populism.

4 Elections: key elements and international standards. In particular: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

II. Elections in Portugal.

5 The Portuguese electoral system: main aspects. The Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and provisions relating to the electoral system.

6 The different elections in Portugal: main elements.

6.1 Elections for President of the Republic;

6.2 Parliamentary Elections;

6.3 Local elections;

6.4 Elections for the European Parliament;

6.5 Regional Legislative Elections: Azores and Madeira.

III. Electoral systems and electoral administration.

6.6 Electoral systems: main elements.

6.6.1 Electoral systems: proportional-representative, majoritarian and mixed. The electoral systems in Portugal: examples.

6.6.2 Electoral administration: main models and characteristics. Electoral administration models and bodies. Case study: Brazil.

6.7 Electoral justice and core principles.

IV. The electoral cycle approach.

7 The electoral cycle approach: key elements.

7.1 The pre-election period:

7.1.1 The legal framework: the Constitution, Legislation and codes of conduct. Boundary delimitation.

7.1.2 Electoral administration: key characteristics.

7.1.3 The planning and implementation of the election. Electoral logistics. The electoral calendar, budgeting and financing, recruitment and hiring, and logistics and security.

7.1.4 Training and education: training of electoral agents. Voter information, voter education and civic education. Main actors.

7.1.5 Voter registration. Voter registration in Portugal.

7.1.6 Registration of parties and candidacies. Electoral observation: national and international.

7.1.7 The electoral campaign: key principles. Campaign coordination, access to the media and codes of conduct. Financing: main principles. Infractions and penalties.

7.1.8 Election Day: Voting operations. Special voting mechanisms. Accessibilities. Vote from abroad.

7.1.9 Vote counting. Official results. Complaints and appeals. Final results.

7.1.10 The post-election period. Assessment, institutional strengthening. Adjustments and reforms.

V. Electoral stakeholders and accessibilities.

8 Electoral stakeholders: who are they? Public entities, candidacies, and other stakeholders.



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Young voters, in particular. The participation and representation of young people and women, in particular.

9 Stakeholders with special needs. Accessibility in the electoral process.

10 Special voting mechanisms.

VI. Elections and the pandemic.

11 Elections and the pandemic: what has changed?

12 Elections and the pandemic: special voting mechanisms.

13 Elections and the pandemic: the Portuguese case. Changes and impacts.

VII. International assistance and election observation.

14 International electoral assistance: rationale and modalities.

15 Electoral observation: key principles. International observation: codes of conduct and main objectives. National or domestic observation.

16 Electoral observation and assistance: main international agencies.

17 Electoral observation in Portugal: case study.

VIII. Conclusions.

18 Debate and conclusions.

19. Assessment Methods

The evaluation is based on three components: participation and attendance, presentation in the class, and written assessments.

20. Didactic Resources

Main bibliography and complementary readings.

The bibliography and other elements are made available in the electronic platform. This includes articles, studies and reports from international agencies. The elements are mainly in Portuguese, with knowledge of reading English being an added value. It is necessary to do some research to prepare the written assessment, with instructions from the Professor.

21. Sustainability Objectives

This course fits into the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 4: Quality Education and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

The UC addresses elections, international standards and electoral integrity, included in point 16.6 - Effective, responsible and transparent institutions and 16.7 ? To ensure agile, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. Objective 4 aims to ?Ensure inclusive and equitable education?.

22. Keywords

Elections

Electoral systems

Electoral integrity

Democracy.



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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Luís, Carla
Title: Eleições, integridade eleitoral e populismo: uma análise dos pontos críticos
Edition: Year: 2020
Local:
Publisher: R:I 67 (1): 13?25.

Author(s): Miguéis, Jorge, Carla Luís, e João Almeida
Title: Lei Eleitoral da Assembleia da República - Anotada e Comentada
Edition: Year: 2015
Local:
Publisher: INCM

Author(s): Miranda, Jorge
Title: Direito Eleitoral
Edition: Year: 2021
Local:
Publisher: Almedina

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Reynolds, Andrew
Title: Concepção de sistemas eleitorais: uma visão geral do novo guia do International IDEA - Instituto Int
Edition: Year: 2005
Local:
Publisher: International IDEA

Author(s): Luís, Carla
Title: Eleições em Portugal em contexto de pandemia: implementação local e desafios à integridade eleitoral
Edition: Year: 2022
Local:
Publisher: Revista Polis - Polis 2 (5): 21?30. <https://doi.org/10.34628/hn40-wj12>



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Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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