UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Introduction to International Relations

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Introduction to International Relations (07401)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

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

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora MARIA MIGUEL SOUSA GALITO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

The discipline focuses on the introductory concepts underlying the discipline of International Relations. It aims at the systematic study of political, economic and social relations between different countries and international organizations.

15. Specific Objectives

Gain skills in the field of International Relations and develop the ability to analyze events in the world. Main principles and paradigms of this scientific area.

16. Skills to be acquired

Intellectual skills (apprehension and understanding of contents).
Practical skills (ability to apply knowledge).
Qualifications within the scope of analyzing world conflicts and tensions, in an integrated and systematic way, from a structured perspective.
Development of analysis/critique skills.

17. Teaching Methodology

Theoretical-practical classes and tutoring classes using the most appropriate audiovisual means, which better enable the perception of the subjects.

In each class, the teacher presents the subject and contextualizes concepts; indicates the subject to be developed during the work sessions and suggests bibliography.

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18. Course Unit Program

1 Framework
1.1 IR as an Autonomous Discipline
1.2 Nature, Object and Methodology
1.3 The International Law Perspective
1.4 International Economics
1.5 Universal History
1.6 Conservative vs. Innovative Vocation
1.7 State and non-state Actors of Internacional Relations
1.8 Law of Increasing Complexity.

2 Paradigms of International Relations
2.1 Realpolitik
2.2 Political Idealism
2.3 International Marxism.

3. Realpolitik
3.1 Nation, State, Nation-State, Nation-State, Stateless Nations
3.2 Sovereignty. National Interests vs. External Interests.
3.3 International Order and Anarchy
3.4 Definitions of Power
3.5 Projection of International Power (Hard Power; Soft Power, Smart Power and Sharp power)
3.6 Hierarchy of Powers.
3.7 Conflicts and Wars.
3.8 Expansionist Foreign Policy, Hegemony and Imperialism.

4.Political Idealism
4.1 Freedom and Democracy
4.2 Political Liberalism
4.3 Globalization and Market Interdependence
4.4 International Cooperation
4.5 International Organizations and Federalism
4.6 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

5 History of International Relations (summary)
5.1 Treaty of Westphalia (1648)
5.2 Congress of Vienna (1815)
5.3 Congress of Berlin (1884/85)
5.4 Hague Conferences (1899 and 1907)
5.5 Treaty of Versailles (1919)
5.6 Treaty of Paris (1947).

6.Structuring themes of the 21st century:
6.1 Democracy vs. Authoritarianism

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6.2 Left and Right Populisms
6.3 Economic and Financial Crises
6.4 Religious Extremism
6.5 International Terrorism
6.6 Organized Crime and Cybersecurity
6.7 Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
6.8 Migration and Refugees
6.9 Human Rights and International Law
6.10 Climate Change.

7 The Future of International Relations
7.1 The Rise of New Powers
7.2 New World Order
7.3 The Virtual World and New Socio-Economic Trends.

19. Assessment Methods

The assessment is based on regulations, and may be modified in accordance with guidelines from Lusíada University of Lisbon.

Continuous assessment: two written tests.

20. Didactic Resources

All those that are appropriate to the addressed topics, regardless of their nature, and that may achieve the objectives defined for the curricular unit.
Appropriate audiovisual means.
If necessary, "Teams IT platform" may be used.

21. Sustainability Objectives

Main Goals:
1 - Ensure equal access to quality technical, professional and cultural education.
2 - Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with relevant qualifications, including technical and professional skills, for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
3 - Guarantee equal opportunities in university education, including people in vulnerable situations.
4 ? Promoting the gradual dematerialization of the teaching/learning process.
Specific goals:
1 - Promote t

22. Keywords

International relations
Realpolitik
Political idealism
Diplomacy
Globalization

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	BRAILLARD, Philip		
Title:	Teoria das Relações Internacionais		
Edition:		Year:	2002
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian		

Author(s):	MALTEZ, José Adelino		
Title:	Curso de Relações Internacionais		
Edition:		Year:	2016
Local:	São João do Estoril		
Publisher:	Princípia		

Author(s):	MOREIRA, ADRIANO		
Title:	Teoria das Relações Internacionais		
Edition:		Year:	2016
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	JACKSON, Robert and SORENSEN, Georg		
Title:	Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches		
Edition:		Year:	2016
Local:	Oxford		
Publisher:	Oxford University Press		

Author(s):	KISSINGER, Henry		
Title:	Diplomacia		
Edition:		Year:	1996
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Gradiva		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora MARIA MIGUEL SOUSA GALITO
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