UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Introduction to Political Science

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Introduction to Political Science (07402)

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. Doutor MANUEL FERNANDO DA SILVA MONTEIRO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

These are the general objectives of this course:

1. To study POLITICS, in the Aristotelian sense, as the study of "the authority that governs those who have the same origin and those who are free."

2. To study Political Science, in its modern sense, as the study of Power, political power, in order to understand what leads, or can lead, to its conquest, maintenance, and exercise.

15. Specific Objectives

These are the specific objectives of this course:

1. To understand the importance of POLITICS throughout all periods.

2. To grasp the significance of CITIZENSHIP and the rights and responsibilities associated with it.

3. To comprehend the STATE in its various forms, as well as the concept of SOVEREIGNTY in its traditional context and in light of the current European and international circumstances.

4. To differentiate between the Form of Power and the actual Seat of Power.

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16. Skills to be acquired

The learning provided by this discipline enables students to acquire knowledge about how political activity operates in the State, leading them to understand who makes decisions and the legitimacy they possess for decision-making. The education imparted will equip students not only for the study of other subjects within international relations, law, sociology, and economics but also for a strong preparation in actively exercising their citizenship.

17. Teaching Methodology

The teaching of this discipline comprises:

- Theoretical-Practical classes for the transmission of content and the illustration of specific situations related to that content.
- Tutorial Orientation classes aimed at assisting students in proper bibliographic research and a correct understanding of the topics covered.

18. Course Unit Program

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Introduction: The distinction between POLITICS and POLITICAL SCIENCE

Part 1
POLITICS

1. What is Politics?
1.1. Politics as polis
1.2. Politics as the activity aimed at the conquest, exercise, and maintenance of power
1.3. Adopted position

2. The state of POLITICS today
2.1. Democracies
2.1.1. Formal democracies
2.1.2. Real democracies
2.1.3. What weakens democracies?
2.1.4. Political participation: a right or also a duty?
2.2. Dictatorships in the modern world
2.2.1. The main characteristics of current dictatorships
2.2.2. Threats of dictatorships to the free world

3. The new challenges of Politics
3.1. Balancing Freedom with Security
3.2. Immigration and Migrations
3.3. New technologies
3.4. Preservation of natural heritage and sharing of natural resources

Part 2
POLITICAL SCIENCE

1. Political Science as an autonomous, interdisciplinary discipline and essential basis for the study of International Relations
2. The central subject of Political Science
2.1. Political Power
2.2. Political facts

Part 3
POLITICAL POWER

1. Notion of Power
2. Distinguishing between the concepts of Power and Authority
3. Power in dictatorial states and democratic states
4. The Form, Seat, and Ideology of Power (Formal Democracy and Real Democracy)
4.1. Political power and its relationship with "economic and financial power" and "social power"
4.2. National political power and international political power
5. Sovereignty
5.1. What is Sovereignty?

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5.1.1. National sovereignty and popular sovereignty
5.2. National Sovereignty in the current context of the European Union
5.3. National Sovereignty in the context of Globalization

Part 4
NATION, PEOPLE, CITIZENSHIP, and POPULATION

1. Nation in cultural and political sense
2. People and its political-legal significance
3. Citizenship
3.1. Citizenship in the Portuguese constitutional framework
3.2. Citizenship in the context of the European Union
4. Population

Part 5
THE STATE

1. The State:
1.1. Constituent elements
1.2. Aims and functions of the State
2. Forms of State
3. The State at the crossroads of infra-state and supra-state powers

Part 6
POLITICAL REGIMES and SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT

1. Distinguishing between Political Regime, Political System, Form of Government, and Systems of Government
2. The system of government in Portugal
3. Presidential, semi-presidential, parliamentary, and cabinet systems of government

Part 7
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION and REPRESENTATION

1. Representative democracy and semi-direct democracy
2. Political participation in Portugal:
2.1. Essential requirements: citizenship and voter registration
2.2. The right to vote

Part 8
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS in PORTUGAL

1. The electoral system in the elections for the Assembly of the Republic
2. The electoral system in presidential elections
3. The electoral system in local elections
4. The electoral system in regional elections in the Azores and Madeira
5. The electoral system in the elections for the European Parliament.

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19. Assessment Methods

A) Continuous assessment includes, necessarily:

1) Attendance in classes in accordance with the University regulations.

2) Participation in classes.

3) Completion of two written tests.

B) Optional:

- Participation and involvement in extracurricular activities developed within the scope of the Course.

20. Didactic Resources

Moodle
Computer/projector/PowerPoint
News articles taken from newspapers, magazines, and audiovisual media.
Media library
Library
Computer facilities with internet connection

21. Sustainability Objectives

Assuming that sustainable education goes beyond the mere presentation of curriculum content, we define here three main objectives:

1. Promotion of critical analytical thinking

2. Continuous distinction between mere information and education

3. Education aimed at the free determination of future choices

22. Keywords

- Politics
- Power
- Nation
- State
- Democracy

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	CORREIA, José de Matos, PINTO, Ricardo Leite,		
Title:	Lições de Ciência Política e Direito Constitucional		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2024
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Universidade Lusíada Editora		

Author(s):	CORREIA, José de Matos, PINTO, Ricardo Leite,		
Title:	Lições de Ciência Política e Direito Constitucional, Eleições, Referendo, Partidos Políticos e Siste		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2018
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Universidade Lusíada Editora		

Author(s):	MOREIRA, Adriano		
Title:	Ciência Política		
Edition:	6ª, reimp.	Year:	2021
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	MALTEZ, José Adelino		
Title:	Manual de Ciência Política - Teoria Geral da República		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2018
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	ISCSP		

Author(s):	Innerarity, Daniel		
Title:	A Política em Tempos de Indignação		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2016
Local:	Alfragide		
Publisher:	D. Quixote		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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