UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Geopolitics and Geostrategy

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Geopolitics and Geostrategy (07416)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

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 JOÃO PAULO SANTOS DE CASTRO FERNANDES

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Educate and training students with the necessary knowledge for a specific and global analysis, interpretation and perspective based on strategic and geopolitics analysis. To lead up the students to discuss and analyse theories and policies about decision making.

15. Specific Objectives

TThe first part of the program aims to provide a set of conceptual foundations that prepare students to better understand the principles of strategy, which are always closely linked to the consideration of conflict situations and relations with politics, security, and the international system?situations and aspects that are inseparable from the current perspectives of power, whether of states or other actors in the system. In the second part, the concepts of threat and geopolitics are applied ac

16. Skills to be acquired

the practice will be evaluated on a book review and work on a group exercise simulating a decision-making process The theoretical knowledge will be subject to two evaluation tests of one hour each. Compulsory final exam.

17. Teaching Methodology

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A program was drawn up that always seeks to relate theoretical and practical subjects, those considered fundamental for the student's learning, and which will be subject to assessment.
the practical contents will consist of the preparation of a strategic decision simulation exercise.
The theoretical part of the program, whenever necessary, will be supported by concrete examples and will be presented in theoretical classes.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Strategy definitions, Politics and Strategy, Strategy and organizations
2. Evolution of Strategy: Indirect aproach of Strategy and Direct Strategy; kinds of Indirect aproach of Strategy.
3. Geopolitics definitions; Geostrategy,
4. Main schools of thought and theory's till I WW, Maritime power. Continental power. France, German. USA. Mahan.
5. Main schools of thought and theory's till II WW. Mackinder, Spykman and Cohen.
6. Strategy of small powers: study case - Portugal.
7. Mackinder and Spikman's theories and their impact on current conflicts

19. Assessment Methods

The continuous evaluation may include the preparation of an individual work on Strategy or geopolitics and two written tests.

20. Didactic Resources

systematic use of software systems, scientific articles, lectures with specially invited professors, invited experts, IT's, films

21. Sustainability Objectives

general
1 - Ensure equal access to education.
2 - Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with relevant qualifications.
3 - Guarantee equal opportunities in higher education.
4 - Promote interaction between student and teacher and adopt knowledge with less paper in the teaching/learning process gradually.
Specifics
1 - Promote a fair society where merit is promoted and not partisanship and facilitation.
2 - Contribute to responsible decision-making for each student

22. Keywords

Geopolitics
Strategy
International relations
Foreign policy
Decision

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Gray,Colin S., Sloan, Geoffrey		
Title:	Geopolitics,Geography and Strategy		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	1999
Local:	London		
Publisher:	Routledge		

Author(s):	Gaddis, John Lewis		
Title:	Grande Estratégia		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2018
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Dom Quixote		

Author(s):	Saraiva, Luis Eduardo; Fernandes, Sandra (Coordenad.)		
Title:	Após as novas Guerras: repensar a violência em Relações Internacionais		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2020
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	IUM		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	ALMEIDA, Políbio F. A		
Title:	Do Poder do pequeno Estado; Enquadramento Geopolítico da hierarquia das potências		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	1990
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Instituto de relações internacionais, ISCSP		

Author(s):	Fernandes, José Pedro Teixeira		
Title:	O FIM da paz perpétua ;Geopolítica de um mundo em metamorfose		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2024
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Livros Zigurate		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'GEOPOLÍTICA E GEOESTRATÉGIA': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor JOÃO PAULO SANTOS DE CASTRO FERNANDES
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