UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (07419)

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. Doutora FILIPA MARIA DE A. MARQUES PAIS D´AGUIAR

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

The general objectives of the Constitutional Law course unit are:
- Identify and analyse the fundamental principles and rules contained in the Constitution, as a fundamental norm of the legal order;
- Evince the aforementioned principles and rules regulate both the legal relationship between the State and its citizens, and the formation, composition, functioning and competence of State bodies; and determine the political, economic, social order and cultural aspects of this political community.

15. Specific Objectives

Endow students with the following abilities:
- Know the content, sources, rules and the interpreting methodology of the Portuguese Constitution;
- Understand the Portuguese constitutional reality and its historical path;
- Ponder the 1976 Constitution systematic approach.

16. Skills to be acquired

Endow students with the following skills at the completion of the curricular unit:
- Interpret and apply the 1976 Constitution concerning: the fundamental structuring principles; the standards for the protection of fundamental rights; the formation, composition, functioning and competence of State bodies, as well as the relationships between them; the way in which legal norms are produced; and, the models for monitoring constitutionality and legality.

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17. Teaching Methodology

Adoption of affirmative, demonstrative and active pedagogical methods, through:
- Lectures on the themes of the course unit program (theoretical-practical classes);
- Analysis of normative texts, jurisprudence and other documents, as well as the pondering of practical cases to promote the usage of the Constitution (theoretical-practical classes);
- Clarifying doubts, deepening the course unit program subjects and tutoring of optional academic papers (tutorial classes).

18. Course Unit Program

Chapter I - Introduction to the Theory of the Constitution
1. Constitutional Law and the state legal organisation
2. Constitutional Law: concept and content
3. Constitution and constitutionalism
4. Constitution classifications
5. Sources of the Constitution
6. Interpretation of the Constitution
7. Constitutional principles and norms
Chapter II - Portuguese Constitutional History
8. The monarchical Constitutions: 1822, 1826, 1838
9. The Republican Constitution of 1911
10. The 1933 Corporate Constitution
Chapter III - The 1976 Constitution
11. The constituent phase and the constitutional revisions
12. Systematisation and fundamental principles
13. Fundamental rights and duties
14. The sovereign bodies in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic; the President of the Portuguese Republic: election and status
15. The Assembly of the Republic: formation, composition, functioning and competence
16. The Government and Public Administration
17. The courts, especially the Constitutional Court
18. The Government system
19. The normative structure and the legislative process
20. Autonomous Regions and Local Government
21. Defense of the Constitution: the system for monitoring constitutionality and legality
22. The constituent power and the power of constitutional review.

19. Assessment Methods

Continuous assessment methodology consisting of two mandatory written tests and one optional academic paper.

20. Didactic Resources

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Bibliography: main and complementary bibliography;
Legislation: Constitution of the Portuguese Republic, codes and other relevant diplomas (e.g., European Union Artificial Intelligence Act);
Digital resources: computer, web, teaching resources made available on the Moodle/b-learning platform.

21. Sustainability Objectives

General (SGD 1,4,10,12,13,16):
1 - Ensure equal access to education;
2 - Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with relevant qualifications;
3 - Ensure equal opportunities in university education;
4 - Promoting the gradual dematerialization of the teaching/learning process.

Specific (SGD 1,4,8,10,16):
1 - Promote the Rule of Law;
2 - Contribute to responsible decision-making.

22. Keywords

Constitution
Rule of law
Human rights
Separation of Powers
Unconstitutionality

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	J.J. Gomes Canotilho		
Title:	Direito Constitucional e Teoria da Constituição		
Edition:	7.ª	Year:	2003
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

Author(s):	Jorge Miranda		
Title:	Manual de Direito Constitucional, tomos I, II, V e VI		
Edition:	10.ª, 7.ª, 4.ª, 4.ª	Year:	2014
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Coimbra Editora		

Author(s):	José de Matos Correia ; Ricardo Leite Pinto		
Title:	Lições de Ciência Política e Direito Constitucional		
Edition:	2.ª	Year:	2024
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Universidade Lusíada Editora		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	J. J. Gomes Canotilho e Vital Moreira		
Title:	Constituição da República Portuguesa Anotada, 2 volumes		
Edition:	4.ª	Year:	2010
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Coimbra Editora		

Author(s):	Jorge Miranda		
Title:	Teoria da Constituição		
Edition:	1.ª	Year:	2020
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'DIREITO CONSTITUCIONAL': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora FILIPA MARIA DE A. MARQUES PAIS D´AGUIAR
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Descritores / Descriptors	-
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