UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
State Foreign Policy

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

State Foreign Policy (07422)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

3rd

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 JOSE FRANCISCO LYNCE ZAGALO PAVIA

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

The general objective is to contribute to the development of the analytical capacity of International Relations (IR) students. It is intended to provide them with in-depth knowledge of concepts, issues and topics of study in the discipline.

15. Specific Objectives

The specific objective is to encourage students to carry out a scientific analysis of the Foreign Policy of States, looking in a structured way at phenomena such as Globalization, Terrorism, Energy Security, among others.

16. Skills to be acquired

Students should acquire analytical skills regarding the study of International Relations, looking at current issues from a structured, scientific perspective. Students should also be encouraged to understand the importance of specific IR phenomena and their applicability in political analysis.

17. Teaching Methodology

Structured debates on a theme previously defined and presented by the students. Promote weekly monitoring of international events. Elaboration of succinct comments on specific topics. Stimulate students regarding the practice of scientific research and guide them to carry out bibliographical research.

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18. Course Unit Program

1. Understand the Foreign Policy of States: the nature of foreign policy; foreign policy and national interest
2. Understand the Foreign Policy of States: the national interest and other interests; globalization and a new approach to foreign policy
3. Foreign policy analysis: approaches to foreign policy analysis; the levels of analysis
4. The analysis of foreign policy: the surrounding context of foreign policy; problems inherent in the analysis of foreign policy
5. Foreign policy and decision-making processes: the Unitary actor and the rationality of decision-making processes; the bureaucratic component in decision-making processes
6. Foreign policy and decision-making processes: the role of leaders in decision-making processes; constraints in decision-making processes
7. Means and their impact on decision-making processes: structural characteristics; types of government
8. The means and their impact on decision-making processes: military resources and economic development; the role of geography
9. Case Studies: Periods in US Foreign Policy
10. Case studies: periods in USSR/Russia foreign policy
11. Case studies: the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War
12. Case studies: Portuguese foreign policy

19. Assessment Methods

Attendance, participation in classes, preparation for debates will be taken into account and two tests will be prepared throughout the semester.

20. Didactic Resources

Reading books and articles.

21. Sustainability Objectives

Bearing in mind the seventeen goals of sustainable development outlined by the United Nations, it seems to us that goals 16 and 17, respectively "Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions" and "Partnerships for the implementation of the goals" are the ones that are best suited to a curricular unit with this designation and with this syllabus. In addition, objective four "Quality Education" may also be taken into account.

22. Keywords

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States
Markets
globalization
Economy
Policy
Governance
Terrorism
Energy
Democracy

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Christopher Hill
Title: The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy
Edition: Year: 2003
Local: London
Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

Author(s): Steve Smith
Title: Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases
Edition: Year: 2008
Local: Oxford
Publisher: Oxford University Press

Author(s): Marijke Breuning
Title: Foreign Policy Analysis: A Comparative Introduction
Edition: Year: 2007
Local: London
Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Valerie M. Hudson
Title: Foreign Policy Analysis: Classic and Contemporary Theory
Edition: Year: 2006
Local:
Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield

Author(s): Alex Mintz e Karl DeRouen Jr.
Title: Understanding Foreign Policy Decision Making
Edition: Year: 2010
Local: Cambridge
Publisher: Cambridge University Press

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor JOSE FRANCISCO LYNCE ZAGALO PAVIA
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