UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
ELECTIVE III - NATIONAL STRATEGY

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

ELECTIVE III - NATIONAL STRATEGY (07461)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

3rd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd 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

The subject aims to contribute to the training of professionals equipped with the strategic knowledge necessary for analysing and interpreting the historical and current perspectives of Portuguese reality in terms of various strategies. Knowledge of Portugal's historical heritage allows for reflection on the main thrusts of foreign policy and national defence policy through the concept of national strategy. It also aims to provide undergraduate students with essential elements for the performanc

15. Specific Objectives

The subject aims to provide students with an overview of the evolution of Portugal's strategy in its permanent national objectives, namely in the construction of an independent state, in the defence of that same state, and in responding to the challenges posed by its geographical location, from its foundation to the present day.

16. Skills to be acquired

Acquisition of adequate knowledge of the main guidelines of Portuguese foreign policy and the strategy defined to achieve national objectives and aspirations. Knowledge of the conceptual framework of Strategy and Geopolitics in which this strategy is implemented. Develop critical thinking about ideas commonly expressed in everyday life regarding the strategic concept of National Defence as a factor of security and cohesion.

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17. Teaching Methodology

lectures by the teacher that encourage debate and active participation by students in learning, through individual assignments, analysis of articles, institutional documents and films/documentaries.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Strategy:
-Evolution of the Concept
-Evolution of the National Strategy
-Application in Time and History
-Geostrategic Framework of Portugal (Portugal as a Small State)

2. Portugal's Geopolitics since the Formation of Nationality
The Construction of the Territory
The Maritime Factor and the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance
The Blockade Syndrome and the Pyrenean Geofactor over the Centuries
Portugal, Europe and the World.

3. Historical Permanent National Objectives
Aspirations
Challenges
Policies
Impacts

4. Current Permanent National Objectives
Aspirations
Challenges
Policies
Impacts

5. The Strategic Concept of National Defence
Preliminary considerations
The importance of strategy in the formulation of state policies
Preventive factors and operational factors
The defence of the State, its institutions, territory and infrastructure.
The defence of language and heritage

19. Assessment Methods

Two assessments and the possibility of a project (simulation exercise)

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20. Didactic Resources

The teaching and assessment methodology mentioned above involves the use of multiple teaching resources adapted to different types of classes. Therefore, the use of texts and the provision of specialised bibliography appropriate to each topic will not be exclusive to theoretical-practical classes and may be used according to the diverse needs of students in tutorial classes, as well as the analysis of documents and viewing of films.

21. Sustainability Objectives

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 students and teachers and gradually adopt a less central role in the teaching/learning process. Specific 1 - Promote a fair society where merit is valued over party politics and favouritism. 2 - Contribute to responsible decision-making.

22. Keywords

Strategy
geography
state
Nation
Foreign policy
history

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): MACEDO, Jorge Borges de
Title: História Diplomática de Portugal. Constantes e Linhas de Força. Estudo de Geopolítica
Edition: 2.ª Year: 2006
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Tribuna / Instituto de Defesa Nacional
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Carvalho, Virgilio
Title: Cumprir agora Portugal
Edition: reedição Year: 2021
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: MCP
ISBN Code: 9789729057243

Author(s): RAMOS, Rui (Coord.)
Title: História de Portugal
Edition: 1ª Year: 2009
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: A Esfera dos Livros
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Carvalho, Virgilio
Title: Estratégia Global subs. para uma grande estratégia nacional
Edition: 1ª Year: 1986
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: ISCSP
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Corvo, João de Andrade
Title: Perigos, Portugal na Europa e no Mundo
Edition: reedição Year: 2005
Local: Porto
Publisher: Fronteira do Caos
ISBN Code: 9729975744

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor JOÃO PAULO SANTOS DE CASTRO FERNANDES
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Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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