UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
ELECTIVE II - HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

ELECTIVE II - HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (07463)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

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 MANUEL FERNANDO DA SILVA MONTEIRO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

he general objectives of this course are to analyse human rights by reconciling the legal perspective with the concrete reality of international political life. The aim is to understand the extent to which the principles upheld by international law can be effective without the real will of states to defend and implement them.

15. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this course unit are to reflect on realism and idealism in international dynamics, seeking to understand how international cooperation can manifest itself in the defence of rights that, from a theoretical point of view, are considered superior to the political will of each state.

16. Skills to be acquired

1. Understanding what distinguishes, or can distinguish, human rights from fundamental rights.
2. Understanding the tension that exists in the international arena between law and power.
3. Understanding the state of the art with regard to effective respect for human rights at the international level.

17. Teaching Methodology

Accompanying the theoretical exposition, the classes in this course will focus on the analysis of concrete situations that best help to understand international political reality. This will involve a constant awareness of what is happening in the world, which will lead to presentations and debates throughout the semester.

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18. Course Unit Program

1. Humanism and Human Rights in the characterisation of the West, in the global context:
a) Early Christian thinkers and human dignity
b) Liberal revolutions and the defence of human rights

2. Humanism and Human Rights after World War II:
a) The UN and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
b) International humanitarian law
c) The European Convention on Human Rights

3. Human Rights and Fundamental Rights:
a) Does the distinction between Human Rights and Fundamental Rights make sense in states governed by the rule of law?
) Human Rights and Natural Law
c) Fundamental Rights and legal positivism

4. International Cooperation
a) Human Rights and the permanent interests of States
b) Can Human Rights persist at the international level without ethical assumptions in international relations?

5.a) The idealistic view
b) The realistic view Human Rights today

19. Assessment Methods

The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the Assessment Regulations of Lusíada University.

20. Didactic Resources

- Recommended bibliography
- Reading suggestions that will be presented throughout the semester
- Consultation of websites, with particular emphasis on the internet, which allow for the collection of up-to-date information and knowledge.

21. Sustainability Objectives

Assuming that sustainable teaching is not limited to simply stating syllabus content, we have defined three main objectives here:

1. Promotion of critical analytical thinking

2. Permanent distinction between simple information and training

3. Training aimed at freely defining options for the future

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22. Keywords

Humanism
Human Rights
Fundamental Rights
Power
Political Realism

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): RODRIGUES, L. Barbosa
Title: Manual de Direitos Fundamentais e de Direitos Humanos
Edition: 1ª, reimp. Year: 2023
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Quid Juris
ISBN Code: 978-972-724-851-3

Author(s): SIMÕES, Vânia
Title: Lições de Direitos Humanos & Proteção Internacional dos Direitos Humanos
Edition: 1ª Year: 2024
Local: Coimbra
Publisher: Almedina
ISBN Code: 978-989-40-2110-0

Author(s): RODRIGUES, L. Barbosa
Title: Direito Internacional dos Direitos Humanos - Textos Normativos
Edition: 2ª Year: 2023
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Quid Juris
ISBN Code: 978-972-724-883-4

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): FONSECA, Rui Guerra
Title: Proteção Internacional dos Direitos Humanos
Edition: reimp. Year: 2022
Local:
Publisher: AAFDL
ISBN Code: 978-972-629-252-4

Author(s): MARITAIN, Jacques
Title: The rigts of man and natural law
Edition: 2ª Year: 1945
Local: London
Publisher: Geoffrey Bles: The Centenary
ISBN Code:

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Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'OPÇÃO II - DIREITOS HUMANOS E COOPERAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor MANUEL FERNANDO DA SILVA MONTEIRO
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Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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