UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
State and Public Policies

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

3rd

4. Course Unit

State and Public Policies (I2102)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

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
Tutorial Guidance:

9. ECTS Credits

10,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora CLAÚDIA MARIA SERPA GARCIA

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

The curricular unit aims to create a space for analyzing the scientific knowledge about the state and its relationship with the public administration and the promotion of social welfare, using public policies to evaluate its privileged role in intervening in current society, as well as social actors interact with it.

15. Specific Objectives

- Develop key notions and contextualize intervention and research issues, and enable an analysis of the functioning of the State, the Administration and public policies
- Encourage the learning of concepts, principles and models for understanding and analyzing public and social policies in the Portuguese and European contexts
- Promote a critical view of the action and political competences of Social Work that contribute to the preparation of the doctoral thesis

16. Skills to be acquired

- Advanced knowledge of the State from a legal-political and socio-political perspective.
- Knowledge of Fundamental Rights, within the framework of Portuguese and international legislation, as well as Human Rights.
- Knowledge of the logic of administrative organization and functioning that prevails in particular in our legal system.
- Ability to use scientific methodologies to analyze and interpret public policies in different areas .

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17. Teaching Methodology

Lectures followed by debate, reflection, preparation and presentation of work within the scope of the course.
Student participation, stimulating their involvement in identifying and deepening the political dimension of Social Work in different sectors of public policy.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Introduction: State, Administration and Public Policies in Social Work studies.
2. The State: Concept and summary of its evolution
3. Functions, tasks and duties of the State
4. Welfare and social protection models
5. The State and fundamental rights
6. The Portuguese Administrative Organisation
7. Public Policies and Social Policies
8. Political decision-making processes
9. Domains and political competences of Social Work
10. Analysing the implications of public policies for societies and citizens

19. Assessment Methods

Presentation of a public policy, linked to the doctoral research topic, using scientific analysis methods and identifying its implications for societies and the well-being of citizens.

20. Didactic Resources

- Computer
- Data show
- Digital platforms
- Recommended bibliography

21. Sustainability Objectives

SGD 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
SGD 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

22. Keywords

State
Public Administration
Public policy
Social Work

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Ira Colby, Catherine N. Dulmus e Karen M. Sowers (Eds).		
Title:	Social work and social policy: Advancing the principles of economics and social justice		
Edition:		Year:	2013
Local:	Nova Jersey		
Publisher:	John Wiley & Sons Inc		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Joaquim Fialho (org.)		
Title:	Manual da Intervenção Social		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2021
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Sílabo		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Diogo Freitas do Amaral		
Title:	Curso de Direito Administrativo Volume I		
Edition:	4ª	Year:	2019
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		
ISBN Code:			

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Jorge Miranda		
Title:	Curso de Direito Constitucional Volume I e II		
Edition:	2ª	Year:	2020
Local:	Porto		
Publisher:	Universidade Católica		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Thomas Dye		
Title:	Understanding Public Policy		
Edition:	15ª	Year:	2017
Local:			
Publisher:	Pearson		

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora CLAÚDIA MARIA SERPA GARCIA
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