UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Seminar: Introduction to Social Problems

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Seminar: Introduction to Social Problems (L4505)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

FUNDAÇÃO MINERVA CULTURA - ENSINO E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Rua da Junqueira, 188 a 198 - 1349-001 LISBOA - Telefone 213 611 500 - Fax 213 638 307 - e-mail: info@lis.ulusiada.pt - https://www.lis.ulusiada.pt

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 CRISTINA MARIA RAMOS COELHO

12. Assistants

Prof. Doutora CLAÚDIA MARIA SERPA GARCIA

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Identify the main contemporary social problems.
Explain the ethical-political values that serve as matrix to the signaling of social problems and social action plans.
Diagnose problems and operationalize social indicators in order to outline appropriate social responses to the needs of various segments of the population, crossing for this purpose knowledge , methods and scales of analysis.

15. Specific Objectives

- Identify and understand today's main social problems.
- Know Social Work Theories to analyze social problems
- Know and critically analyze a diversity of social problems.
- Understand the importance of social diagnoses and intervention strategies in social work in the context of social problems.
- Foster an interventive and proactive attitude in promoting social rights and citizenship.

16. Skills to be acquired

FUNDAÇÃO MINERVA CULTURA - ENSINO E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Rua da Junqueira, 188 a 198 - 1349-001 LISBOA - Telefone 213 611 500 - Fax 213 638 307 - e-mail: info@lis.ulusiada.pt - https://www.lis.ulusiada.pt

- Learn to search for relevant information for each problem under analysis, reflecting critically;
- Understand the diversity and heterogeneity of social problems and the need for Social Work intervention
- Know and use diagnostic and planning tools for intervention, aiming at social development;
- Understand the importance of public policies, the promotion of social rights and citizenship in the intervention of the social worker.

17. Teaching Methodology

Expositive method combined with the active method with reflection and debate on the subject of and recommended reading texts.

18. Course Unit Program

1 - Introduction to social problems
1.1 - Concept and definitions of Social Problem
1.2 - Theoretical perspectives on social problems
1.3 - Identify, diagnose and investigate social problems today
1.4 - The use of critical thinking in the analysis and critical reflection on social problems

2 - Strategies for action against social problems
2.1 - Objectives and strategies in response to needs and social problems
2.2 - Introduction to social diagnosis: concepts and methodologies

3 - The diversity and heterogeneity of contemporary social problems

4 - Redefine the social problems in the framework of social policies and social rights and citizenship for social development

19. Assessment Methods

Two written tests.
One group work and presentation in class according to the teacher's instructions.
Other elements.

20. Didactic Resources

Computer;
Projector;
Powerpoint presentations;
Documentation and bibliography recommended by the teacher.

21. Sustainability Objectives

SGD 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere
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

FUNDAÇÃO MINERVA CULTURA - ENSINO E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Rua da Junqueira, 188 a 198 - 1349-001 LISBOA - Telefone 213 611 500 - Fax 213 638 307 - e-mail: info@lis.ulusiada.pt - https://www.lis.ulusiada.pt

22. Keywords

Social Problems
Social Intervention
Social Diagnosis
Social Development

FUNDAÇÃO MINERVA CULTURA - ENSINO E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Rua da Junqueira, 188 a 198 - 1349-001 LISBOA - Telefone 213 611 500 - Fax 213 638 307 - e-mail: info@lis.ulusiada.pt - https://www.lis.ulusiada.pt

23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Hermano Carmo (Ed.)		
Title:	Problemas sociais contemporâneos		
Edition:	1ª Edição	Year:	2001
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Universidade Aberta		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Dimitris Michailakis & Werner Schirmer,		
Title:	Social work and social problems: A contribution from systems theory and		
Edition:	(23), 4, 431-442.	Year:	2014
Local:	http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:liu:diva-107377		
Publisher:	International Journal of Social Welfare,		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Maria José Aguilar Idáñez e Ezequiel Ander-Egg		
Title:	Diagnóstico social: conceitos e metodologias		
Edition:	3ª Edição	Year:	2007
Local:	Porto		
Publisher:	REAPN		
ISBN Code:			

24. Complementary Bibliography

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

Author(s):	Allen Rubin e Earl R. Babbie		
Title:	Research Methods for Social Work		
Edition:	7ª Edição	Year:	2011
Local:	Belmont, CA		
Publisher:	Brooks-Cole - CENGAGE Learning		
ISBN Code:			

FUNDAÇÃO MINERVA CULTURA - ENSINO E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Rua da Junqueira, 188 a 198 - 1349-001 LISBOA - Telefone 213 611 500 - Fax 213 638 307 - e-mail: info@lis.ulusiada.pt - https://www.lis.ulusiada.pt

UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'SEMINÁRIO DE INTRODUÇÃO AOS PROBLEMAS SOCIAIS': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora CRISTINA MARIA RAMOS COELHO
Classificação / Classification	-
Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s	-
Data Hora / Date Time	
Formato de dados / Data Format	Texto / Text, PDF
Estatuto de utilização / Usage	Acesso público / Public Access
Relação / Relation	Version 1,0

(c) Universidade Lusíada, 2026

FUNDAÇÃO MINERVA CULTURA - ENSINO E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Rua da Junqueira, 188 a 198 - 1349-001 LISBOA - Telefone 213 611 500 - Fax 213 638 307 - e-mail: info@lis.ulusiada.pt - https://www.lis.ulusiada.pt