UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Economics of Social Inclusion Bases

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Economics of Social Inclusion Bases (L4506)

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:	30,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor ALVARO ANTONIO CALADO AFONSO MATIAS

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

At the end of the semester students will be able to make rational choices based on existing economic and social resources. They will also be able to list the possible mechanisms of social inclusion, namely those referring to employment policies and other social policies. Students will also be able to analyze economic data and facts strongly correlated with social reality.

15. Specific Objectives

At the end of the semester students will be able to:
- enunciate all possibilities of choice, given the available resources;
- proceed with the respective choices according to pre-defined and accepted criteria;
- interpret the meaning of the main economic variables, namely those that are most closely linked to social reality;
- interpret social variables in light of their economic constraints.

16. Skills to be acquired

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It is intended that students acquire knowledge regarding:
- the current economic and social environment, namely with regard to economic and social indicators and variables;
- the national and international economic and social situation, and the way in which it conditions the entire process of public choices;
- the way in which social policy itself is defined and conditioned by the current macroeconomic framework;
- the functioning of the market and its flaws and the respective problems.

17. Teaching Methodology

Theoretical-practical classes will mostly consist of oral exposition by the teacher.
On average, one topic per class will be taught, followed by practical complements whenever deemed appropriate. In tutorial classes there will be a follow-up and closer monitoring of the students, by helping and guiding the study and clarifying aspects on a case-by-case basis. Priority will be given to the analysis of current social problems and their implications.

18. Course Unit Program

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I. BASIC CONCEPTS
1. Origin and basic principles of economics
2. Economic science in the context of social sciences
3. Basic problems of economic organization and their solutions
4. Supply, demand and the price mechanism in a mixed economy
5. Economic efficiency, public goods and externalities
6. The role of the Government: taxes, public debt and money printing

II. MARKET and SOCIAL SECTOR
1. Definitions
2. Economic agents and economic circuit
3. National accounting principles
4. Basic principles of consumer and producer theory
5. Methodologies and economic models
6. The limits of the market and the need for the 3rd sector

III. HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION
1. Remote Origins
2. Economic thinking and social protection
3. State intervention in the protection of social risks
4. Bismarckian social insurance, the Beveridge Report and the origin of Social Security

IV. EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
1. Market, employment and social exclusion
2. Equilibrium and price formation in the labor market
3. Efficiency and social inclusion mechanisms
4. Poverty and social exclusion
5. State role

V. CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES
1. Demographic trends
2. Economic growth and wealth distribution
3. Long-term financing of social protection systems
4. New Trends. The case of UBI (Universal Basic Income) - utopia or reality?

19. Assessment Methods

1. Two written tests: 40% + 50%
2. Attendance, initiative and participation: 10%

20. Didactic Resources

Manuals and other materials suggested by the teacher; prepared slides for specific points in the program; previously suggested practical problems.

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21. Sustainability Objectives

This subject will be taught accordingly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and in line with the global education strategy for sustainable development goals (SDG). Its aims are fully in compliance with one of the targets of the SDG on education (SDG 4.7), which is considered a driver for the achievements of all 17 SDGs. The subject aims to empower students to make informed decisions in favour of environmental integrity, economic viability and social prosperity.

22. Keywords

Macroeconomics
Microeconomics
Public goods
Third sector
Social inclusion
Social policies

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): The Core Team
Title: The Economy
Edition: The Core Team Year: 2022
Local: https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/
Publisher: The Core Team
ISBN Code:

Author(s): SAMUELSON, Paul, NORDHAUS, William
Title: Economia
Edition: 19ª Year: 2011
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
ISBN Code:

Author(s): José Mata
Title: Economia da Empresa
Edition: 1ª Year: 2000
Local: Lisboa; http://josemata.org/ee/
Publisher: Fundação Calouste G.
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): MATIAS, Álvaro
Title: Economia da Segurança Social
Edition: A.P.S.S. Year: 1999
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Vulgata
ISBN Code:

Author(s):
Title:
Edition: Year:
Local:
Publisher:
ISBN Code:

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor ALVARO ANTONIO CALADO AFONSO MATIAS
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