UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Social Politicy

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Social Politicy (L4512)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st 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. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To know the fundamentals and the analytical framework of Social Policy, as an area of Public Policies, in order to understand Social Policy as a mechanism for regulating life in society and the relationship between State/Society/Citizens.

15. Specific Objectives

- To Know the different socio-political perspectives that frame the different conceptions and models of Social Policy.
- Address Social Policy within the framework of Public Policies, its evolution and current trends.
- Provide theoretical and ethical elements for the knowledge and analysis of the influence of Social Policy in preventing and combating poverty and social exclusion.
- Encourage the study of Social Policy in its relationship with Human Rights, Citizenship Rights and Social Work.

16. Skills to be acquired

Reflective capacity on Social Policy as public action, its redistributive character and preventive effect in poverty and social exclusion.
Realize the importance of Social Policy as a resource for Social Work action, for the reduction of social inequalities and citizen´s participation in community development.

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17. Teaching Methodology

The syllabus contents will be exposed in theoretical classes. Students participation will be performed in practical classes (OT) in the presentation, reflection and analysis of data and documents about the daily life of society, the policy measures in force and the scope of action of social workers.

18. Course Unit Program

I. PUBLIC POLICIES AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES
1.1. Concept(s) and Classification of Public Policies
1.2. State and Ideologies: from Modernity to Contemporary Times
II. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL POLICY: DEFINING ITS SCOPE
2.1. Concepts and theoretical assumptions of Social Policy
2.2. Normative Dimensions and Social Policy Conceptions
2.3 Models of Social Policy
III. SOCIAL POLICIES AND THE WELFARE STATE: CONTEXT AND EVOLUTION
3.1. Social Policy, Social Protection, and the Welfare State: Evolution in the European and National Context
3.2. The evolution of social issues in the European Union
3.3 Restructuring the Welfare State: nature and explanations
3.4 Traditional redistributive and social protection policies
3.5 Crisis and Restructuring of the Welfare State: nature and explanations
3.6. Activation and new areas of social policy
IV. SOCIAL POLICY, POVERTY, AND EXCLUSION: STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR PUBLIC POLICIES
4.1. Concepts, Typologies, and Theoretical Explanations of Poverty and Social Exclusion
4.2. Critical Analysis of Theoretical Explanations of Poverty and Social Exclusion
V. SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
5.1. Welfare State, Crisis, Reform, and Social Rights: Functions and Challenges of Social Work
5.2. The Social Worker as a Political Agent in the Global Context: Their Role in Social Inclusion Policies in the 21st Century

19. Assessment Methods

2 written tests
A thematic group presentation
Participation in the 'Tell Me: Proper Listening - Forum Theater' and 'Self-care and well-being' sessions of the 'Degrau Zero' Transversal Skills Program, with presentation of proof of attendance.

20. Didactic Resources

Audiovisual media (Data show/Power Point/Internet/Videos)
Recommended Bibliography
Material provided by the teacher
Didactic games

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21. Sustainability Objectives

The UC aligns with the goal of sustainability, which requires a balance of social, economic, and environmental dimensions. The study of Social Policy supports several of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030):
1 - Eradicate poverty
2 - Zero hunger and sustainable agriculture
5 - Gender equality
8 - Decent work and economic growth
10 - Reduction of inequalities
13 - Action against global climate change
16- Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions

22. Keywords

Public Policy
Social Policy
Welfare State
Poverty
Social Exclusion

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Carmo, Hermano
Title: Teoria da Política Social (Um olhar da Ciência Política)
Edition: 1ª Year: 2011
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: ISCSP_Manuais Pedagógicos

Author(s): Caeiro, Joaquim Croca
Title: Estado Social, Políticas Públicas e Política Social
Edition: 1ª Year: 2015
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: ISCSP_Manuais Pedagógico

Author(s): Cabral, Nazaré da Costa
Title: Modelos de Políticas Públicas Sociais: Do Rendimento Incondicional aos ?Vouchers?, passando por solu
Edition: 1ª Year: 2022
Local: Coimbra
Publisher: Almedina

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Pereirinha, José António
Title: Política Social. Fundamentos da atuação das políticas
Edition: 1ª Year: 2008
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Universidade Aberta

Author(s): Rodrigues, Fernanda
Title: Assistência Social em Políticas Sociais em Portugal
Edition: 1ª Year: 1999
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: ISSSL-CPIHTS

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO
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Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
Data Hora / Date Time	
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