UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
ETHICS AND DEONTOLOGY OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

ETHICS AND DEONTOLOGY OF SOCIAL SERVICE (L4525)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

3rd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

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

9. ECTS Credits

3,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora MARIA ISABEL DE JESUS SOUSA

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Develop ethical and deontological thinking and stimulate awareness of the importance of ethics in personal, social and professional life.

15. Specific Objectives

Promote critical and reflective thinking, framing ethical and deontological matters, in Social Work intervention;
Contribute to an ethically based intervention;
Develop students' social sensitivity to the ethical and deontological principles of the profession, preparing them to identify and decipher ethical issues and dilemmas;
Prepare for participation in construction and decision-making processes, based on the ethical and deontological principles of the profession.

16. Skills to be acquired

- Ability to develop an ethically based Social Work intervention;
- Discernment to identify and decipher ethical issues and dilemmas;
- Ability to participate in construction and decision-making processes, based on the ethical and deontological principles of the profession.

17. Teaching Methodology

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Teaching-learning, emphasizing autonomous and shared learning, based on a brief theoretical presentation of the syllabus (expository and interrogative methods), on the training of skills related to the identification and characterization of ethical issues and dilemmas, and the approach of construction and decision-making processes, based on the ethical and deontological principles of the profession:
- Case discussion
- Display of videos and films
- Debates

18. Course Unit Program

1. Ethics, moral and deontology: conceptual analysis
1.1. The importance of ethical reflexivity
1.2. Think, live and work ethically
2.The concept of person and human condition
3. Theoretical references of Ethics
3.1. The importance of different ethics in Social Work
4. Applied Ethics
4.1. Ethics of conviction and ethics of responsibility
4.2. The helping relationship
5. From ethics to deontology in Social Work
5.1. The Code of Ethics for social workers in Portugal
6. Dogmatism x norm relativism
7. Minimum ethics or ethical minimums
8. Ethical dilemmas and conflicts
8.1. Conflicts of interest
8.2. Capacity for professional action and protection of users? rights

19. Assessment Methods

The CU continuous evaluation will result from the consideration of:
- 2 Individual written tests - weighting factor 3
- Other elements (such as attendance and participation in relevant extra-curricular activities) - weighting factor 1.

20. Didactic Resources

- Bibliographic reference documents;
- Documents provided by the teacher (PPT to support classes, cases for analysis);
- Films and videos
- Computer and multimedia projector;
- Digital platforms (Moodle & Teams);
- Internet.

21. Sustainability Objectives

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The Ethics and Deontology curricular unit aims to contribute to sustainability in the following areas:
1 - Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with relevant qualifications, including technical and professional skills, for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
2 - Ensuring equal opportunities in university education
3 - Respect for cultural diversity, social and environmental responsibility, ethical values and commitments.

22. Keywords

Social Work
Ethics and deontology
Values
Social and environmental responsibility

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Adela Cortina		
Title:	10 palavras-chave em ética		
Edition:	1997	Year:	1997
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Gráfica de Coimbra		

Author(s):	Sarah Banks		
Title:	Ethics and Values in Social Work		
Edition:	5th	Year:	2020
Local:			
Publisher:	Bloomsbury Publishing		

Author(s):	Stephen Marson & Jr. McKinney (Eds)		
Title:	The Routledge Handbook of Social Work Ethics and Values		
Edition:	1st	Year:	2019
Local:			
Publisher:	Routledge		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Neves, Maria do Céu Patrão & António Bagão Félix		
Title:	Ética aplicada: protecção social		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2017
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Edições 70		

Author(s):	Irene Carvalho		
Title:	Ética Aplicada ao Serviço Social		
Edition:		Year:	2016
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Pactor		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora MARIA ISABEL DE JESUS SOUSA
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