UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Criminal Investigation

Academic Year 2024/2025

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Law

2. Course

SECURITY POLICIES

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Criminal Investigation (L7028)

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:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor SÉRGIO RICARDO COSTA CHAGAS FELGUEIRAS

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Understand the fundamentals and techniques of research, know applied technologies, understand the institutions' role, learn ethics and laws, develop critical analysis and teamwork skills, promote professional interest, awareness of social importance and enhance communication skills.

15. Specific Objectives

Identify the basic principles of criminal investigation and the different types of crime.
Analyse the stages of the investigation process and evidence collection procedures.
Understand the methods and techniques of forensic analysis applied in different criminal contexts.
Recognise the role of technology in criminal investigation and the importance of data protection.
Explore the legal and ethical aspects of the investigation and use of evidence in court.

16. Skills to be acquired

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Competences acquired in the course unit "Criminal Investigation":
Ability to understand the fundamentals of criminal investigation and apply different methodologies in analysing cases.
Ability to identify and evaluate physical and digital evidence using forensic collection and analysis techniques.
Knowledge of technologies applied to criminal investigation, enabling the use of appropriate tools in the investigation process.
Understanding of ethical principles.

17. Teaching Methodology

Theoretical-practical classes with audiovisual support. Tutorial classes with reading guidance, research indications, case studies and verification of knowledge acquisition. Creation of forums for reflection and discussion on the different topics in the programme in the classroom and Moodle platform.

18. Course Unit Program

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0. Introduction to criminal investigation and its foundations.
1. Crime and society and map of fears versus crime statistics - from reported crime to proven crime.
2. Concepts, doctrine, practices and techniques and systems.
Normative and operational concepts of investigation and prevention, deviance and crime, evidence and police and other associated concepts such as evidence and procedural subjects.
3. Justice and Security Systems: from systemic complementarity.
Criminal investigation in Portugal: from the description of the legal and institutional system to the activity of the criminal police bodies.
4. The police operative investigation - the centrality of evidence: from technique to legal basis. Case studies.
5. National and international cooperation in criminal investigation.
6. Principles governing the investigation or material truth: the legality or legitimacy of evidence, the free assessment of evidence, and the presumption of innocence.
7. Personal evidence: interview and interrogation techniques.
Testimonial evidence and statements by the accused, the assistant and the civil parties. Acquaintance.
Statements for future reference.
Recognition and reconstruction of facts.
8. Actual evidence: expert evidence and documentary evidence.
9. Precautionary police measures. Searches.
Searches.
Seizures.
Telephone tapping.
10. Criminal intelligence.
11. Witness protection and the status of victims.
12. Repentant agent, informer, covert agent, agent provocateur.
13. Electronic means of gathering information and evidence.
14. The new global challenges: Terrorism, Human Trafficking and Illegal Immigration and Cybercrime.
15. Investigation in administrative offences.
16. The role of the citizen and private security in a criminal investigation.
17. Crime prevention versus criminal investigation in Portugal: situational prevention and smart urban policing.

19. Assessment Methods

Class interventions.
Performance in discussing topics and writing in the presentation of work.
Capacity for interaction and argumentation in the defence of points of view.
The realisation of two evaluation tests.

20. Didactic Resources

Primary and complementary bibliography.
Discussion forums.
Audiovisual resources.

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21. Sustainability Objectives

The sustainability goals for criminal investigation, according to the 2030 Agenda, aim to promote quality education (SDG 4); discuss gender equality (SDG 5); Explore technologies applied to criminal investigation (SDG 9); Analyse the role of criminal investigation in promoting safe and sustainable communities by addressing crime prevention and combating crime in urban areas (SDG 11); Discuss the importance of criminal investigation as a mechanism to promote peace (SDG 16); and Discuss the signif

22. Keywords

Criminal Investigation
Evidence
Forensic Analysis
Applied Forensic Technologies
Forensic Ethics

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Braz, J.		
Title:	Ciência, tecnologia e investigação criminal - Interdependência e limites num Estado de Direito Democ		
Edition:	2.ª Edição	Year:	2021
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

Author(s):	Braz, J.		
Title:	Investigação Criminal: A organização, o método e a prova		
Edition:	5.ª Edição	Year:	2020
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

Author(s):	Evans, C.		
Title:	Criminal investigations: Crime scene investigation		
Edition:		Year:	2009
Local:	New York		
Publisher:	Chelsea House		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Newton, M.		
Title:	The encyclopedia of crime scene investigation		
Edition:		Year:	2008
Local:	New York		
Publisher:	‎ Checkmark Books		

Author(s):	Horswell, J.		
Title:	The practice of crime scene investigation		
Edition:		Year:	2004
Local:	New York		
Publisher:	CRC Press		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'INVESTIGAÇÃO CRIMINAL': Academic Year 2024/2025
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor SÉRGIO RICARDO COSTA CHAGAS FELGUEIRAS
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Descritores / Descriptors	-
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