



FACULDADE DE DIREITO  
Universidade de Lisboa

## Curricular Unit Sheet

Course **MESTRADO EM DIREITO E PRÁTICA JURÍDICA**

### 1. Curricular Unit Name:

UNITED NATIONS LAW – The use of force (ENGLISH)

### 2. Complementary Information:

Duration: Semester ☒ Annual ☐

Work hours: 196

Credits ECTS: 7

### 3. Responsible Academic staff and respective workload in the curricular unit:

Ana Soares Pinto

### 4. Other academic staff and respective workloads in the curricular unit:

N/a

### 5. Learning outcomes of the curricular unit:

Acquire key concepts which are essential to understand the functioning of the United Nations (UN). Acquire understanding of the role of the UN in constituting and reconstituting world order. Develop the ability to analyze UN policies and practices, particularly regarding the use of force.

### 6. Syllabus:

- I. Introduction.
- II. The origins of the United Nations Charter.
- III. The United Nations Charter.
- IV. The UN membership.
- V. The UN organs.
- VI. The UN acts.
- VII. The UN functions:
  - Collective Security and United Nations Peacekeeping during the Cold War.
  - The “Wars” of the 1990s and Post-Cold War United Nations Peace Operations.
  - Terrorism, Weapons of Mass Destruction and Global Security since 9/11.
  - Threats to security in the XXI Century.
  - Conflicts in the XXI Century.
  - International Law.
  - International Human Rights Law.
  - International Humanitarian Law and Responsibility to protect.
  - Development: United Nations System. Sustainable development goals (in particular goal 16).
- VIII. Challenges: United Nations Reform.

### 7. Demonstration of the syllabus coherence with the curricular unit's objectives:

Syllabus grants an overview and thorough analysis of UN – in law and in practice.

### 8. Teaching methodologies (including evaluation):

Theoretical introduction to each subject of the syllabus, through the use of the expositive method. Discussion and analysis of previously assigned reading material: historical documents, conventions, UN acts and caselaw. Oral and written presentation by Master Students on topics related to the syllabus (VII. The UN functions and VIII. Challenges: United Nations Reform). Evaluation: continuous assessment (25%), oral and written presentation (25%) and a written



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exam (50%). Erasmus/mobility students' special evaluation: continuous assessment (50%), oral and written presentation (50%).

#### 9. Demonstration of the coherence between the teaching methodologies and the learning outcomes:

The theoretical introduction to each subject of the syllabus is designed to prepare Master Students to acquire key concepts which are essential to understand the functioning of the United Nations. Discussion and analysis of previously assigned reading material and assignments provide Master's Students the ability to analyze UN policies and practices, understand and engage with contemporary issues and debates in international affairs and connect UN evolution to change and continuity in international relations.

#### 10: Evaluation:

Evaluation: continuous assessment (25%), oral and written presentation on topics related to the syllabus (VII. The UN functions) (25%) and a written exam (50%).

Erasmus/mobility students' special evaluation: continuous assessment (50%), oral and written presentation on topics related to the syllabus (VII. The UN functions and VIII. Challenges: United Nations Reform) (50%).

#### 11: Main Bibliography:

CHESTERMAN, Simon / JOHNSTONE, Ian / MALONE, David – *Law and practice of the United Nations*, 2nd ed., OUP, 2016.

CHESTERMAN, Simon / David M. Malone (ed.), Santiago Villalpando (ed.) – *The Oxford handbook of United Nations Treaties*, OUP, 2019.

CONFORTI, Benedetto – *The Law and practice of the United Nations*, 5th ed., Brill, 2016.

COT, J. P. / PELLET, A. / FORTEAU, M. (eds.) – *La Charte des Nations Unies – commentaire article par article*, 3rd ed., Economica, 2005.

HIGGINS, Rosalyn et al. – *Oppenheim's International Law: United Nations*, vol. I -II, Oxford, 2017.

KILLE, Kent / LYON, Alynna – *The United Nations: 75 Years of Promoting Peace, Human Rights, and Development*, ABC-CLIO, 2020.

KOOPS, Joachim A. et al. – *The Oxford handbook of United Nations peacekeeping operations*, Oxford, 2015.

MÉGRET, Frédéric / ALSTON, Philip – *The United Nations and Human Rights – a critical appraisal*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., OUP, 2020.

MINGST, Karen / KARNIS, Margareth / LYON, Alynna – *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 6th ed., Routledge, 2022.

MOORE Jr., John Allphin/ PUBANTZ, Jerry – *The new United Nations: International Organization in the Twenty-First Century*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Routledge, 2017.

SIMMA, Bruno et al. (ed.) – *The Charter of the United Nations – a commentary*, 4th ed., Oxford, 2024.

WEISS, Thomas G. / DAWS, Sam – *The Oxford handbook on the United Nations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford, 2018.

#### Portuguese:

ALMEIDA RIBEIRO, Manuel de – *A organização das Nações Unidas*, Almedina, reimpressão da edição de 2004, 2016.

CORREIA BAPTISTA, Eduardo – *O poder bélico em direito internacional: o uso da força pelas Nações Unidas em especial*, Coimbra, 2003.

DUARTE, Maria Luísa / LANCEIRO, Rui Tavares (coord.) – *O direito internacional e o uso da força no século XXI*, AAFDL, 2018.

OLIVEIRA MARTINS, Margarida Salema de – *As reformas nas Nações Unidas e a reforma das Nações Unidas*, Coimbra Editora, 2006.

#### 12: Remarks:

N/a