



Syllabus

PROGRAMME NAME

Ocean Governance and Strategic Management

Academic Year: 2026/27

Semester: 1

ECTS: 5.5

Hours: 42

LEVEL OF CURRICULAR UNIT:

Undergraduate (1st cycle, as defined in the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area)

INSTRUCTOR(S)

Sónia Ribeiro

CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS

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BIOGRAPHY

Sónia Ribeiro is a specialist in European Studies and Ocean Governance, with academic and policy experience in international cooperation, strategic management, and maritime affairs. She has contributed to research, teaching, and policy discussions on ocean governance, blue economy, and global challenges affecting marine systems.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to ocean governance and strategic management, combining legal, political, economic, and environmental perspectives. It examines the importance of the oceans for global sustainability, the evolving governance frameworks, and the strategic management of marine resources in the context of current challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource exploitation. Students will explore international regimes, policy instruments, and stakeholder dynamics shaping ocean governance, while developing analytical and strategic thinking skills relevant for addressing complex marine issues.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand key concepts and frameworks of ocean governance and strategic management
- Identify major global challenges affecting the oceans and their implications
- Analyse international conventions, institutions, and governance mechanisms
- Evaluate strategies for sustainable management of marine resources

- Assess the role of stakeholders, including coastal communities and international organizations
- Apply critical thinking to future scenarios in ocean governance

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODOLOGY

The course combines:

- Lectures (conceptual and theoretical grounding)
- Case studies (real-world policy and governance challenges)
- Class debates and guided discussions
- Short analytical exercises and reports
- Independent research work

The methodology emphasizes critical thinking, participation, and applied learning.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment

Group Assignments/Project/ Portfolio – Group/individual grade (40%)

Midterm – Individual grade (30%)

Endterm – Individual grade (30%)

COURSE CONTENT

Module 2 – Introduction to Ocean Governance

- Core concepts
- Strategic relevance of the ocean
- Key global challenges

Module 3 – Fundamentals of Ocean Governance

- Principles and instruments
- International conventions and agreements
- Role of international organizations
- National policies and legal frameworks

Module 4 – Strategic Management of Marine Resources

- Blue Economy
- Fisheries and aquaculture

- Offshore resources (oil, gas, mining)
- Renewable ocean energy

Module 5 – Conservation and Protection

- Marine biodiversity
- Marine protected areas
- Pollution and plastic waste

Module 6 – Stakeholders and Coastal Communities

- Coastal challenges and opportunities
- Stakeholder participation
- Monitoring and evaluation

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CBD Secretariat. (2020). Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Convention on Biological Diversity.
- CBD Secretariat. (2021). Ocean Governance: Towards the Sustainable Use and Conservation of Marine Biodiversity.
- European Commission. (2020). A Sustainable Blue Economy in Europe: A Report for the European Green Deal.
- European Commission. (2022). EU Blue Economy Report 2022. European Commission.
- FAO. (2018). The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture.
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- IPCC. (2019). Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.
- IPCC. (2021). IPCC Sixth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2021: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- UNEP. (2018). Marine Litter: A Global Challenge.
- UNEP. (2020). Marine Plastic Pollution: The State of the Science. United Nations Environment Programme.
- UNESCO. (2020). Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- UNESCO. (2021). World Ocean Assessment III: Sustainable Development of the Ocean: Assessment and Recommendations. UNESCO Publishing.
- United Nations. (2017). The United Nations and the rule of law in oceans governance.
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- World Bank. (2019). The Ocean Economy in 2030.
- World Bank. (2021). The Sunken Billions Revisited: Progress and Challenges in Global Marine Fisheries. World Bank Group.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

Good practices in academic work are essential to promote integrity, rigor, and ethics in the production and dissemination of knowledge. In a challenging context where artificial intelligence is occupying an increasing space in higher education institutions, it is imperative to ensure the transparency of the work done by students.

In order to ensure respect for the ethical and deontological standards that should guide academic activity, the IEP reminds that the following behaviours constitute serious infractions:

- i) Multiple submission: submitting the same written work for evaluation in different courses, whether simultaneously or consecutively, even with changes made.
- ii) Plagiarism, which involves appropriating the work or parts of someone else's work without proper citation or citing it incompletely. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, cases where paraphrases or glosses of texts and ideas from others are made with only a substitution of words, or when significant parts of others' work are added to one's own work without identifying and referencing the original authors. Visit this guide for additional resources on how to avoid plagiarism in your written submissions <https://www.turnitin.com/papers/understanding-the-turnitin-similarity-report-student-guide>
- iii) Self-plagiarism refers to the repeated submission of the same work or the inclusion of significant portions from one's previous works, published or submitted for evaluation, without proper citation, and without any advancement in research that justifies a new publication.
- iv) Fraudulent production, considered as works composed solely of successive citations from other authors—though properly referenced—without original production from the supposed author of the work, is not acceptable for evaluation.
- v) Falsification or manipulation of results, including selective presentation of data, falsification of sources, intentional distortion of methods, particularly statistical methods, to reach desired conclusions.
- vi) During exams, tests, or other academic exercises where consultation is prohibited, it is considered fraudulent to use or attempt to use informational materials, notes, or equipment to access information available through search engines or AI platforms, or others. Use of smartwatches or other communication devices is not permitted during the exam.
- vii) It is fraudulent to facilitate copying or attempt to copy from colleagues during an individual academic exercise.
- viii) Assessment works must be submitted to a plagiarism detection program; at UCP, this is Turnitin. If fraudulent practice is detected by the platform and verified by the professor, resulting in the annulment of the result, there is no appeal.
- ix) Any violation of the rules during assessment exercises leads to immediate annulment and communication to the Program Coordinator and the Pedagogical Council.
- x) If fraud committed by a student is discovered after graduation, the Institute will act accordingly by annulling the result of the academic exercise in question.
- xi) In the case of detecting any of the previously mentioned situations, a meeting will be held with the Program Coordination to assess the situation and determine future procedures.
- xii) The Program Coordinator and the Pedagogical Council will maintain a record of students who have been proven to have committed fraud during their academic journey.

Academic integrity breaches will be dealt with in accordance with the school's code of Academic Integrity: [Codigo-de-Etica.pdf](#) / [Aditamento-ao-Codigo-Etica-e-Conduto-UCP.pdf](#)