

 UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA	Ficha de Unidade Curricular	Ano letivo: 2026/2027
Unidade Orgânica	IEP-UCP	Nível de Ensino Licenciatura
Ciclo de estudos	Licenciatura em Ciência Política e Relações Internacionais	

I – Caracterização inicial da Unidade curricular

Designação da unidade curricular: **Brazil and South America in a New Geopolitics**

Duração: **Semestral**

Período letivo: **1º S**

Tipo de uc: **Opcional**

Código UCP: 57104792

Área científica: Ciência Política e Relações Internacionais

Sigla da área científica: CPRI

Idioma: **inglês**

Créditos ECTS: 5.5

Nº total de horas de trabalho: 168h (42h de contacto e 126h de estudo autonomo) | 168 hours

(42 hours of class time and 126 hours of independent study)

Apresentação da unidade curricular /Sumário (máximo 500 carateres)

This course examines Brazil's political development and its role in the changing geopolitics of South America and the Global South. Combining perspectives from Political Science and International Relations, the course aims to explore Brazil's democratic institutions, foreign policy, regional integration, security, environmental governance, and its strategic relations with major global powers, highlighting contemporary challenges to democracy and international order.

II – Tipos de aula, horas letivas e corpo docente

Horas de trabalho (número total de horas de trabalho):

Horas de contacto: **42**

Horas de contacto	Teóricas	Teórico-Práticas	Práticas	Práticas de laboratório	Orientação tutorial	Seminário	Trabalho de campo	Total
Presenciais		42						42
À distância, síncronas								
À distância, assíncronas								
Total de horas de contacto		42						42

Docente(s) responsável (eis) e respetivas cargas letivas na unidade curricular:

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Karim Quintino

III – Objetivos de Aprendizagem, Conteúdos programáticos e Metodologias de ensino

Objetivos de aprendizagem e a sua compatibilidade com o método de ensino (conhecimentos, aptidões e competências a desenvolver pelos estudantes) (máx. 1000 carateres)

- Explain the evolution of Brazil's political system and democratic institutions in a comparative perspective;
- Assess Brazil's role in South American regionalism and contemporary international affairs;
- Apply key theories of Political Science and International Relations to analyse Brazil's foreign policy and geopolitical strategy;
- Critically evaluate the impact of major global challenges – including strategic competition, climate change, democratic backsliding and technological transformation – on Brazil and South America

Conteúdos programáticos (máx. 1000 caracteres)

- **Brazilian Politics in Comparative Perspective**
 - Democratic transition, constitutional development, political institutions, federalism, political parties and presidentialism
- **Brazilian Democracy and Contemporary Political Challenges**
 - Democratic governance, political representation, inequality, polarization, populism, rule of law and democratic resilience
- **Brazil in South American Regional Politics**
 - Regional integration, Mercosur, UNASUR, CELAC, regional leadership, cooperation and security in South America
- **Brazil in the New Geopolitics**
 - Brazil's foreign policy, relations with the United States, China, the European Union and the BRICS; South-South cooperation and strategic autonomy
- **Global Challenges and Brazil's International Role**
 - Climate change, the Amazon, energy transition, sustainable development, digital transformation, international security and the future of Brazil's global engagement

Syllabus – plano indicativo de desenvolvimento de conteúdos¹:

Semana	Conteúdo previsto
1	Introductions and course overview. Concepts, Context and Contemporary Relevance
2	Historical foundations: State formation, democratization and constitutional development in Brazil
3	Political institutions: Presidentialism, federalism, political parties and electoral system
4	Democracy under pressure: Polarization, populism, inequality and democratic resilience
5	Brazil's foreign policy: Historical evolution and strategic traditions
6	Regional integration: Mercosur, UNASUR, CELAC and South American governance
7	Brazil as a regional power: Leadership, cooperation and regional security

¹ Preenchimento opcional

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8	Mid-term evaluations (group presentations)
9	Brazil, the United States, the EU, and the changing hemispheric order
10	Brazil and China: Trade, investment, technology and strategic competition
11	Brazil, BRICS and the Global South in the emerging multipolar order
12	Climate geopolitics: The Amazon, sustainability and environmental diplomacy
13	New security challenges: Energy, cyber governance, migration and transnational threats
14	Brazil's future in South America and global governance
15	End-of-term evaluations (individual presentations and research essays). Course synthesis

Demonstração da coerência dos conteúdos programáticos com os objetivos de aprendizagem da unidade curricular: (máx. 1000 caracteres)

The course begins with an examination of Brazil's political institutions and democratic development, providing students with the conceptual foundations required to understand the country's domestic political dynamics. It then explores Brazil's role in South American regionalism before examining its position within the contemporary international system through the lenses of Political Science and International Relations. The final part of the course addresses major geopolitical challenges – including relations with the United States, China, the European Union and the BRICS, as well as climate governance and global security – allowing students to integrate theoretical knowledge with empirical analysis and critically assess Brazil's evolving role in the regional and global order.

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Metodologias de ensino:

Na lista apresentada, assinale as práticas pedagógicas utilizadas nesta unidade curricular

Práticas pedagógicas	Utilização
Método expositivo	Sim
Estudos de caso	Sim
Aprendizagem Cooperativa/Colaborativa/em Equipa	Sim
Aprendizagem baseada em Projetos	Não
Aprendizagem baseada em Problemas	Sim
Visitas de estudo/de campo	Não
Aprendizagem Serviço	Não

Metodologias de ensino e de aprendizagem específicas da unidade curricular articuladas com o modelo pedagógico do CE (máx. 3000 caracteres)

Teaching and learning will combine lectures with student-centred, seminar-style lessons. Each topic will be introduced through lectures designed to provide the theoretical and conceptual foundations required for the analysis of contemporary political and geopolitical issues. These sessions will be complemented by case studies, guided discussions, and the analysis of academic literature, policy documents and current events related to Brazil and South America. Students will be encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and engage critically with the course materials.

IV – Avaliação dos estudantes

Avaliação: (máx. 3000 caracteres)

Students will be assessed through four complementary components:

- **Class participation and contribution to discussions (10%)** – Students are expected to participate actively in lectures and seminar discussions, demonstrating engagement with the assigned readings, current affairs and classroom debates;
- **Group presentation (20%)** – Working collaboratively, students will analyse a contemporary political or geopolitical issue related to Brazil and South America, applying relevant theoretical approaches and presenting evidence-based arguments;
- **Individual presentation (30%)** – Each student will deliver an individual presentation on a topic related to the course, demonstrating analytical skills, critical reflection and the ability to communicate complex ideas in an effective manner;
- **Exam (40%)**

Demonstração da coerência das metodologias de ensino e avaliação com os objetivos de aprendizagem da unidade curricular: (máx. 3000 caracteres)

The teaching methodologies and assessment strategy are designed to support the achievement of the course learning outcomes through a student-centred and research-informed approach. Lectures provide the conceptual and theoretical foundations necessary for understanding Brazil' political

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system, foreign policy and geopolitical role, while case studies, seminar discussions and collaborative activities encourage students to apply these concepts to contemporary political developments.

The assessment components are aligned with the progressive development of knowledge and skills throughout the course. Class participation promotes critical engagement with the literature and current affairs, while the group presentation develops collaborative learning, analytical reasoning and communication skills. The individual presentation enables students to demonstrate their ability to analyse a specific topic independently and communicate complex ideas effectively. Building upon this presentation, the final research essay assesses students' capacity to undertake independent research, engage critically with academic literature, integrate theoretical and empirical perspectives, and construct well-supported academic arguments. Together, these teaching and assessment methods foster the analytical, research and communication skills required to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

V – Bibliografia e observações finais

Bibliografia de consulta/existência obrigatória: (máx. 1000 carateres)

Power, Timothy J. (ed.) (2016). *New Order and Progress: Development and Democracy in Brazil*. Oxford University Press

Reid, Michael (2014). *Brazil: The Troubled Rise of a Global Power*. Yale University Press

Needell, Jeffrey D. (ed.) (2015). *Emergent Brazil: Key Perspectives on a New Global Power*. University Press of Florida