# *Syllabus*

## Humanity's Greatest Challenges

### *SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*






## Information about the course

- → Elective course
- → First semester of the academic year 2026/27
- → From October 28th to November 26th
- → Online classes on Wednesday and Thursday from 17h30 to 18h45
- → 3 ECTS
- → Taught by five different teachers (from different Schools)
- → In English

## Contents

### Objectives

- → Understand the importance of the SDG as a universal and strategic language for the future of humanity.
- → Understand the challenge posed by SDS 16 with a multisectoral lens: public, private sector, and civil society.
- → Open up for a broader and active concept of Peace.
- → Understand the connection between Peace, Justice, and State / Institution Building.
- → Learn the main concepts of effective institutions, understand why effective institutions are vital for SDG implementation, and identify approaches to effective institution building.
- → Understand the importance of stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation.
- → Explore and deepen knowledge on the role of companies and/or institutions in the context of SDG16, with a particular emphasis on targets 16.2 (End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children), 16.5 (Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms), 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels) and 16. B (Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development)

**Topic 1– October 28th and 29th**
Context
**Professor:** Filipa Pires de Almeida, Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics

- → Historical perspective: The SDG Agenda and where it comes from
- → Why are the SDGs important? A Common Language for Prosperity
- → 2030 Agenda: SDG per SDG
- → Systemic perspective of the SDGs: multi-level, multi-sector, multidisciplinary
- → Why SDG 16 and why is it important?
- → Organization's role and citizens' role on the SDG Agenda

**Topic 2– November 4th and 5th**
Business and Economics
**Professor:** Raquel Campos Franco, Católica Porto Business School

- → What can the meaning of just companies be?
- → Corruption in the corporate world
- → Whistleblowing channels and the protection of whistleblowers
- → Can corporations be instruments of Peace?

**Topic 3 – November 11th and 12th**
Philosophy and Social Science
**Professor:** Carla Pinto Rebelo, Faculdade de Filosofia e Ciências Sociais

- → Special questions in social ethics.
- → Effective governance for SDG Implementation (international to local strategies and innovative practices)
- → Key actions needed to tackle global challenges
- → Multi-stakeholder engagement
- → Strengthening Institutional Effectiveness: action plan for accelerating change

**Topic 4** – **November 18th and 19th**
Political Studies
**Professor:** Lucie Calléja, Instituto de Estudos Políticos

- → Theoretical Perspectives on Peace
- → The UN agenda for Peace: Conflict Prevention, Peace-Making, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
- → Civil society and Bottom-Up Peace: Case Study
- → Measuring Peace, Justice, and Institutions
- → Global Governance and the Implementation of SDG 16

**Topic 5 – November 25th and 26th**
Law
**Professor:** Paulo Câmara

- → Corporate governance as both an SDG 16 metric and a tool for effective SDG 16 implementation
- → Legal principles and practical implications
- → Corporate governance as an instrument for peace and justice

**Final Evaluation** – **December 16th and 17th**

- → December 16th – Group work oral evaluation
- → December 17th – Final exam

## Methodology

- → Interactive lectures with student participation
- → Group and individual research work
- → Participation of external guests - inspiration
- → Video watching

→ Case discussions

## Grading

The individual assessment will have three distinct components:

1. **Group work (30%):** The main objective of the group project is to develop students' ability to propose concrete and well-founded solutions to challenges associated with SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Working in teams of four to five members, students must select a relevant topic directly linked to a specific target of SDG 16, identifying a concrete problem related to that target.

Based on the content explored throughout the course unit, each group must propose public or private policy solutions that contribute to achieving the selected target, demonstrating critical thinking, innovative spirit, and an awareness of the feasibility of their proposals. The goal is for each group to present a concrete solution to an identified problem.

The written report (portfolio) must be submitted by December 9th at 11:59 PM (Lisbon time) via the Moodle platform.

All groups are required to attend at least **two mandatory mentoring sessions** with a faculty member from the course unit to receive guidance on defining their topic, approach, and project structure.

The project will be assessed as follows:

- **60% of the final grade** will be based on an oral evaluation taking place in the first class of the final week (December 16th ), during which groups will respond to questions posed by the faculty.
- **30% of the final grade** will be based on the submitted written report.
- **10% of the final grade** will be based on scheduling and attending the sessions with the group's mentor.

All faculty members will participate in the evaluation of the projects. The group's mentor will assign 40% of the oral evaluation grade, and the remaining 60% will be equally distributed among the other faculty members.

There will also be peer evaluation conducted in two rounds: at the end of the third week and after the final submission. In each round, students will distribute 100 points among their group members, evaluating individual contributions. This peer assessment may adjust the final individual grade by up to 3 points (positive or negative).

At the end of the course unit, the two best projects from each class will be invited to participate in a final intercampus session scheduled for the end of June. From these, two groups will be selected to present their proposals to a company or governmental entity and may also be invited to participate in a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels (to be confirmed).

2. **Individual response to quizzes during class (20%):** At the end of the second class of the week, quizzes will be given on the subject taught. Answering these quizzes accounts for 20% of the final assessment. Failure to attend class will result in a score of zero on the quiz. The quiz can only be answered during the respective class.

3. **Individual Exam (50%):** Students must complete a Final Exam (in person at their respective campus or online/with special support if abroad), equivalent to 50% of the final assessment. This Exam contains five questions and will be conducted with the possibility of consulting a double-sided A4 sheet with **handwritten** notes.

Passing the Course Unit requires a minimum score of 8 (out of 20) in all assessment components and a final average not lower than 10. Approval in the course units is granted with a minimum final grade of 10.

If the student does not achieve a passing grade in the Course Unit but has attended at least 80% of the classes and participated in the group work, a Resit Exam will be available three weeks after the regular exam period. This exam will consist of five questions (one per topic). Students are allowed to consult one A4 sheet (front and back) with **handwritten** notes during the exam. This exam can be used either to pass the course or to improve the student's final grade. In this case, continuous assessment is always taken into account, and the student will keep the higher of the two grades.

## Academic Integrity

The expected academic conduct of students aligns with the University's values of integrity and ethics, which should be clear throughout the course. Students are expected to behave in a manner that shows respect for their peers and professors, integrity in the development of their work, and honesty in their execution.

Plagiarism is the improper use by any individual of work, intellectual property, etc., produced by someone else, claiming it as their own (https://www.b-on.pt/boas-praticas/plagio/). Plagiarism can be direct, involving an unmentioned citation or part of a work, or accidental, being a compilation of several authors not properly cited.

Non-compliance with the course rules regarding intellectual honesty and plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

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