

1. OVERVIEW

Subject Area	COMPARATIVE LEGAL SYSTEMS
Degree	Bachelor's Degree in Law
School/Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences and Law
Year	First
ECTS	6
Type	Core
Language(s)	Spanish
Delivery Mode	On campus
Semester	First

2. INTRODUCTION

The subject of Comparative Legal Systems is essential in a globalised world, where legal relations are established between subjects belonging to different cultures.

Legal experts need to know the legal framework of the country in which most of their work is going to take place, its underlying principles, sources and the balance between them, its political and administrative structure, its institutions, etc.

Comparison with other legal systems also makes it possible to shed light on both the distinct features of the national system itself and its weaknesses, thus inspiring possible legislative reform.

3. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Basic skills (CB, by the acronym in Spanish):

- CB1: Students have demonstrated possession and understanding of knowledge in a study area that builds on general secondary education, and is typically at a level that, while supported by advanced textbooks, also includes aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.
- CB2: Students can apply their knowledge to their work professionally and possess the necessary skills, usually demonstrated by forming and defending opinions, as well as resolving problems within their study area.
- CB3: Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant information (usually within their study area) to form opinions which include reflecting on relevant social, scientific or ethical matters.
- CB4: Students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- CB5: Students have developed the learning skills necessary to undertake further study in much more independent manner.

Cross-curricular skills (CT, as per the Spanish acronym):

- CT02: Self-confidence: Students should be able to act with confidence and with sufficient motivation to achieve their objectives.
- CT05: Interpersonal understanding: Students should be able to actively listen for the purpose of reaching agreements, using an assertive communication style.
- CT06: Flexibility: Students should be able to adapt and work in different and varied situations with different people. This involves assessing and understanding different positions and adapting their own approach according to the situation.
- CT08: Initiative: Students should be able to respond proactively to situations that emerge, proposing solutions or alternatives.

Specific skills (CE, as per the Spanish acronym):

- CE05: Understand law as a systematic, coherent whole, with awareness of topics of social, economic and environmental interest.
- CE06: Deliver a convincing legal argument with regard to a theoretical question related to one of the different areas of law.
- CE12: Develop critical awareness in the study of the legal system.

Learning outcomes (RA, as per the Spanish acronym):

- RA1: Knowledge and understanding of the use and need of comparative law.
- RA2: Knowledge of and ability to handle different legal families.
- RA3: Students take active part in discussions, demonstrating knowledge, understanding and interlinking of the fundamental principles of the subject.
- RA4: Carry out research projects based on how different legal families deal with matters that have a direct impact on economic life, such as contracts and damages.

The following table shows how the skills developed in the course match up with the intended learning outcomes:

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB1, CE05, CE12	RA1
CB1, CB5, CB4, CE05, CE12	RA2
CB3, CB2, CB4, CB5, CE05, CE06, CE12	RA3
CB3, CB4, CB5, CE5, CE06	RA4

4. CONTENTS

Unit 1: Concept and classification of comparative legal systems. Law, language and legal culture.

Unit 2: Roman law as the foundation of European legal systems. Introduction to the Spanish legal system. Sources of law. Civil law as private law.

Unit 3: The Italian legal system. Main characteristics.

Unit 4: The French legal system. Main characteristics.

Unit 5: The German legal system. Main characteristics.

Unit 6: Common Law. Main characteristics. Special focus on the UK.

Unit 7: The US legal system.

Unit 8: Religious legal systems. Introduction to Islamic law. Special focus on countries such as Turkey and Egypt.

5. TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS

The types of teaching/learning methods are as follows:

- Case studies.
- Collaborative learning
- Problem-based learning
- Lecture
- Mock scenarios

6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The types of learning activities, plus the amount of time spent on each activity, are as follows:

On-campus:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	25
Learn and use legal terminology through spoken and written exercises.	12.5
Autonomous learning	25
Solve practical case studies that relate to a certain branch of law (real and fictional)	25
Carry out research and systemic analysis of legal institutions.	25
Active and informed participation in group activities in the classroom.	12.5
Overview of the professional activities a legal expert may carry out	25
TOTAL	150

7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment methods, plus their weighting in the final grade for the course, are as follows:

On-campus:

Assessment system	Weighting
Knowledge tests	45%
Practical legal cases	15%
Final project and mock trial. Partial exam in groups	30%
Class attendance, participation and discussion, presentations	10%

On the Virtual Campus, when you open the subject area, you can see all the details of your assessment activities, including the deadlines and assessment procedures for each activity.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

The recommended bibliography is indicated below:

- DIEGO LÓPEZ GARRIDO, MARCOS FCO. MASSÓ GARROTE, LUCIO PEGORARO (directores), *Nuevo derecho constitucional comparado*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2000;
- ALISTE SANTOS T.J., *Sistema de Common law*, ed. Ratio Legis, 2013.
- ALTAVA LAVALL, M.; AYMERICH OJEA, I., *Lecciones de derecho comparado*, Universitas (Universitat Jaume I), 2003
- SÁNCHEZ-BAYÓN, A., *Sistema de derecho comparado y global: de las familias jurídicas mundiales al nuevo derecho común*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2012.
- JOUVE, NICOLÁS (coord..). *La maternidad subrogada*. Sekotia Editorial, Madrid.
- SÁNCHEZ LORENZO, SIXTO, *DERECHO CONTRACTUAL COMPARADO (2 TOMOS) (PAPEL +E-BOOK)*, EDITORIAL ARANZADI / 978-84-9135-925-8
- SÁNCHEZ LORENZO, SIXTO, *CLÁUSULAS EN LOS CONTRATOS INTERNACIONALES*, ATELIERLIBROS / 978-84-92788-79-8

9. PLAGIARISM RULES

In line with the disciplinary rules for students of Universidad Europea:

- Plagiarism of all or part of any kind of intellectual work is considered a serious offence.
- Any student who commits the serious offence of plagiarism or cheating to pass an assessment test shall be disqualified from the corresponding exam(s), with the offence and reason for disqualification appearing on their academic record.

