

## 1. OVERVIEW

Subject Area	Legal English
Degree	Law/Criminology/International Relations
School/Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences
Year	First
ECTS	6
Type	Core
Language(s)	English
Delivery Mode	On campus
Semester	2

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The subject area Legal English aims to introduce students to the world of English in a legal and commercial context, in order to develop the skills required to communicate in English in personal and professional contexts. To this end, the subject area addresses a variety of topics in the legal field. Students will work to develop their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in order to achieve a B2 level within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals will be studied in context from different perspectives so that students are aware of the importance of their implementation at all levels. SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is particularly relevant since, according to the UN's own website on the SDGs: 'Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain threats to sustainable development'.

## 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 a much more independent manner.

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

- 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.
- CT07: Teamwork: Students should be able to actively participate in achieving a common objective by listening, respecting and valuing the ideas and proposals of the other members of their team.

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

- CE09: Use information and communication technology to search for and find legal information (legislation and case law databases, literature, etc.), as well as work and communication tools.

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

- RA1: Develop the skills needed to communicate in English in personal and professional contexts.
- RA2: Submit practical exercises and tests that demonstrate skills in effective written and spoken communication in English.
- RA3: Select the communication formats and technology resources most suited to each individual communication scenario in English.

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

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB1, CB2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CT05, CT07	RA1: Develop the skills needed to communicate in English in personal and professional contexts.
CB2, CB4, CE9, CT05	RA2: Submit practical exercises and tests that demonstrate skills in effective written and spoken communication in English.
CE9, CT07, CT06, CT05	RA3: Select the communication formats and technology resources most suited to each individual communication scenario in English.

## 4. CONTENTS

1. The Practice of Law: introductory module  
Bodies of law, the adversarial and inquisitorial systems, types of law and court. Persons in court.
2. Company Law: company formation and management  
Communication: a letter of advice and informal presentations  
  
Language: key terms: roles in company management; a letter of advice.
3. Contract Law:  
Communication: negotiating, contract negotiation.  
  
Language: Key terms: Defences to contract formation, text analysis. Understanding contracts, giving emphasis, negotiating expressions.

4. Employment Law:  
Communication: Attachments and formality. Advising on advantages in an email.  
  
Language: employment, expressing an opinion, agreeing and disagreeing.
5. Real Property Law:  
Communication: summarising and requesting; case discussion: an aspect of real property law.  
  
Language: parties referred to in real property law, contrasting ideas, classifying and distinguishing types or categories, giving a presentation.
6. Competition Law  
Communication: using passive constructions, proposals, informative email, giving opinions (a competition law case).  
  
Language: anti-competitive activity, warning a client of risks.

**Note:** The structure of the subject area may undergo changes depending on students' progress. Students will be informed of any changes in advance.

As mentioned above, in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will feature in the content of this subject area. As future professionals in the field of law and justice, ensuring citizens' security and access to justice will be students' contribution to sustainable development.

## 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.	30
Activities aimed at raising students' awareness of ethical values and social responsibility.	37.5
Autonomous learning	20
Active and informed participation in group activities in the classroom.	12.5

Develop communication skills in legal contexts.	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

## 7. ASSESSMENT

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

### On-campus:

Assessment system	Weighting
<b>Essays and reports:</b> - Guided writing x1 (10%) - Glossary x1 (10%)	20%
<b>Spoken presentation x1</b>	20%
<b>Practical exercises:</b> - Role-play x1 (10%)	10%
<b>Knowledge tests:</b> Written test x1 (30%) Spoken test x1 (20%)	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 work of reference for this subject area is:

- Krois-Lindner, A., (2011). International Legal English (2nd Ed.). Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. ISBN: 9780521279451

The recommended bibliography is indicated below:

- Michael Swan. A Practical English Usage. Oxford University Press.
- Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell. English Phrasal Verbs in Use – Intermediate to Upper Intermediate. Cambridge University Press.
- Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell. English Idioms in Use. Cambridge University Press.
- Mark Hancock. English Pronunciation in Use. Cambridge University Press.

## 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.