

ENGLISH FOR LAW

Curso 2012/2013

(Código: 26602478)

1. PRESENTACIÓN

"English for Law" enables participants to enhance their command of legal English in general, but also as specifically applied to the context of the European Union.

2. CONTEXTUALIZACIÓN

"English for Law" aims to improve participants' skills in reading legal texts and to activate and expand their legal vocabulary. It also aims to advance their pronunciation and listening skills in legal topics, particularly within the subject area of the European Union.

Participants will practice a wide array of legal English skills, ranging from legal reading and writing strategies to presentation of legal issues. They will also become familiar with the main features of professional and academic texts in legal contexts, as well as with the differences between legalese and plain legal English.

3. REQUISITOS PREVIOS RECOMENDABLES

Participants are expected to have at least a B1+ level of English (CEFR, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

The specific difficulties and intricate nature of the grammar of legal English requires students to have a good command of English, since they will have to learn features typical of an advanced/proficient user of English such as the subjunctive, archaisms, noun compounds, subordination, etc.

4. RESULTADOS DE APRENDIZAJE

This course has the following learning outcomes:

- Be aware of the role played by English as a *lingua franca* in the dissemination and transmission of specialist knowledge.
- Decrease any linguistic/cultural difficulties, bashfulness and/or reluctance to communicate in English with colleagues from the same or similar fields of specialisation.
- Be able to communicate in English in a legal context.
- Enhance the comprehension and command of legal English.
- Improve skills in reading, writing, pronouncing and understanding legal texts in English.
- Become acquainted with and be able to identify the main grammatical features of legal English as against general English.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the characteristics of legalese vs. plain English.
- Achieve a reasonable command of legal English vocabulary in several areas, such as civil, criminal, social, administrative, commercial, etc.

5. CONTENIDOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

1. An introduction to legal English & the European Union

- 1.1. Grammar: Special features of legal English.
- 1.2. Vocabulary: Peculiarities of legal vocabulary. Civil & criminal vocabulary. EU vocabulary.
- 1.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Pronouncing legal English.
- 1.4. Reading / Listening: The European Institutions.
- 1.5. Writing: Academic career/Professional experience.

2. Common law vs. civil law systems

- 2.1. Grammar: Gerunds & infinitives. Comparisons. Indirect questions. Prepositions.
- 2.2. Vocabulary: Sources of law. The legal profession & The Judiciary. Courts & tribunals.
- 2.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Stress. Intonation. Particular difficulties.
- 2.4. Reading / Listening: The English legal system.
- 2.5. Writing: Expressing advantages & disadvantages: common law systems vs. civil law systems.

3. International contracts

- 3.1. Grammar: Modals. Subordinate clauses. The subjunctive. Connectives.
- 3.2. Vocabulary: Collocations. Word building.
- 3.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Voiced and unvoiced/voiceless sounds.
- 3.4. Reading / Listening: Elements of a contract. Plain English: tips for drafting a contract.
- 3.5. Writing: Expressing personal opinions.

4. International Organizations

- 4.1. Grammar: The passive voice. Premodification vs. postmodification.
- 4.2. Vocabulary: The vocabulary of international relations and international courts.
- 4.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Common pronunciation problems in legal English. Common mistakes.
- 4.4. Reading / Listening: International cooperation in civil & criminal matters.
- 4.5. Writing: Writing an essay. Summarising

6. EQUIPO DOCENTE

- [EVA SAMANIEGO FERNANDEZ](#)

7. METODOLOGÍA



The distance learning methodology at UNED offers, among other things, flexibility, which means that participants can study at a time that suits them best. Tutors will distribute the various tasks as evenly as possible throughout the term and will be attentive to participants' individual learning circumstances.

Participants will have learning activities, materials and assignments in the online course and will have regular support from the tutors. Tutors will also guide and advise participants, and will offer them comprehensive feedback on their coursework.

Legal English vocabulary & grammar will be introduced through the exploration and exploitation of legal topics; this will include legal texts, presentations, listenings, videos, etc. A whole range of fresh materials and resources will be used.

Active involvement in the online course is strongly encouraged and recommended.

8.BIBLIOGRAFÍA BÁSICA

Comentarios y anexos:

In general, the following books are recommended:

HAIGH, R. (2004/2009), *Legal English*. Routledge.

KROIS-LINDNER, A. (2006), *International Legal English*. Cambridge University Press.

MCKAY, W.R. & CHARLTON, H.E. (2005), *Legal English. How to Understand and Master the Language of the Law*. Pearson Education.

RILEY, A. (2005), *English for Law*. Longman Pearson Education.

WOJCIK, M.E.(2001/2009), *Introduction to Legal English: An Introduction to Legal Terminology, Reasoning and Writing in Plain English*. BNI Publications (Book Network International).

For Spanish-speaking participants who might be interested in learning legal English as well as legal Spanish, we recommend the following:

ALCARAZ, E. (1994/2007), *El inglés jurídico*, 6th ed. Barcelona: Ariel.

ALCARAZ, E., CAMPOS, M.A. y MIGUÉLEZ, C. (2001/2006, 3th ed.), *El inglés jurídico norteamericano*, 3rd ed. Barcelona: Ariel.

ALCARAZ, E. y HUGHES, B. (1993/2003), *Diccionario de términos jurídicos, Inglés-Español, Spanish-English*, 7th ed. Barcelona: Ariel.

---- (2002), *Legal Translation Explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome.

For participants specifically interested in the English legal system, we recommend the following books:

GILLESPIE, A. (2011), *The English Legal System*. Oxford University Press.

PARTINGTON, M. (2011), *An Introduction to the English Legal System*. Oxford University Press.

9.BIBLIOGRAFÍA COMPLEMENTARIA

Comentarios y anexos:

A full bibliography will be provided in the online course.

10.RECURSOS DE APOYO AL ESTUDIO

Participants will have activities, materials and assignments in the online course. Tutors will guide students through the activities and tasks and will provide them with a list of useful bibliography and internet resources, as well as other learning materials (videos, presentations, etc.). A whole range of resources will be used.

11.TUTORIZACIÓN Y SEGUIMIENTO

The course tutors will be available to participants mainly through the online course.

See “Equipo Docente” for full contact details of the course tutors.

12.EVALUACIÓN DE LOS APRENDIZAJES

For each unit, the course tutors will suggest a series of activities/exercises/tasks in the online course. It is strongly recommended that participants complete them. These activities will be optional and keys will be provided so that participants can self-assess their learning process.

There will also be one assignment per unit (4 in all), which will be compulsory and will account for 40% of the total mark in the course (10% each assignment).

The remaining 60% of the final mark will come from an end-of-term assignment, which participants will have at their disposal with sufficient time and notice.

13.COLABORADORES DOCENTES

- ROSA BAUTISTA CORDERO
- NEIL MCMAHON

