

ENGLISH FOR LAW

Curso 2013/2014

(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 and understanding legal texts, to strengthen their knowledge and command of the features of legal English and to activate and expand their legal vocabulary.

Participants will practice a wide array of legal English skills, ranging from legal reading and writing strategies or vocabulary building to writing their opinion on legal issues. They will also become familiar with the main features and peculiarities of legal English, 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, inversion, archaisms, noun compounds, subordination, etc.

4. RESULTADOS DE APRENDIZAJE

This course has the following learning outcomes:

- Enhance the knowledge, 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

The contents of this course include two types of materials: the materials in the obligatory handbook (*EU English*, by Trebits & Fischer, 2010) and the materials which will be at the disposal of students on the online course.

The coursebook includes the following 14 topics: From Europe to the European Union; European countries and enlargement; How the EU works; Upholding the interests of the Union; The voice of the Member States;



Representing the interests of EU citizens; Budgeting-Financing the European Union; Observing European Law; European policies 1 -economic and monetary union (EMU); European policies 2; Cooperation in foreign, police and judicial affairs; Moving about and funding your projects in the EU; Cultural awareness -"United in Diversity", and Getting a job.

This is supplemented by materials that will be at the students' disposal on the online course, as listed below:

1. An introduction to legal English

- 1.1. Grammar: Special features of legal English.
- 1.2. Vocabulary: Legal vocabulary: theory & practice.
- 1.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Pronouncing English.
- 1.4. Reading / Listening: Newspaper articles on legal topics
- 1.5. Writing: Academic career/Professional experience.

2. Common law vs. civil law systems

- 2.1. Grammar: Indirect questions, prepositions and/or other grammar topics.
- 2.2. Vocabulary: The legal system in England & Wales: sources of law, the legal profession, the judiciary, courts & tribunals.
- 2.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Common pronunciation problems/errors in legal English.
- 2.4. Reading / Listening: The English legal system.
- 2.5. Writing: Expressing advantages & disadvantages.

3. International contracts

- 3.1. Grammar: The passive voice; premodification vs. postmodification and/or other grammar topics.
- 3.2. Vocabulary: Word building.
- 3.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Pronouncing legal English (I).
- 3.4. Reading / Listening: Contracts.
- 3.5. Writing: Expressing personal opinions.

4. International Organizations

- 4.1. Grammar: Adverbial phrases and /or other grammar topics.
- 4.2. Vocabulary: Collocations.
- 4.3. Speech & Pronunciation: Pronouncing legal English (II).
- 4.4. Reading / Listening: International cooperation in civil & criminal matters.
- 4.5. Writing: Summarising

6.EQUIPO DOCENTE



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.

Participants will have learning activities, materials and a few assignments in the online course. Tutors will guide and advise participants on the course materials.

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 materials and resources will be used.

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

8. BIBLIOGRAFÍA BÁSICA

Comentarios y anexos:

The compulsory handbook for the course will be the following:

Trebits, Anna & Fischer, Marta (2010), *EU English. Using English in EU Contexts*. Ernst Klett Sprachen.

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 on 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 through the online course.

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

12. EVALUACIÓN DE LOS APRENDIZAJES

COURSE ASSESSMENT

There will be 2 assignments throughout the course, which will be compulsory and will account for 20% of the total mark in the course (10% each assignment).

The remaining 80% of the final mark will come from an end-of-term assignment, which participants will have at their disposal with sufficient time and notice.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

For each unit, the course tutors will suggest a series of activities/exercises/tasks on 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.

13. COLABORADORES DOCENTES

- ROSA BAUTISTA CORDERO
- NEIL MCMAHON

