

# ENGLISH FOR LAW

Curso 2015/2016

(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: (1) improve students' skills in reading, writing and understanding legal texts or texts on legal issues; (ii) strengthen their knowledge and command of the features of legal English and (iii) activate and expand their legal vocabulary.

Students will practise 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

Students are expected to have at the very least a B1+/C2 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 a very 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 students' knowledge, comprehension and command of legal English.
- Improve skills in reading, writing and understanding legal texts or texts on legal issues 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 law, criminal law, administrative law, commercial law, 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 Anna Trebits, 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 for students to organise their time, which means that they can study at a time that suits them best. Tutors will distribute the various tasks as evenly as possible throughout the term.

Students will have learning activities, materials, self-assessment tasks and assignments at their disposal on the online course.

Legal English vocabulary & grammar will be introduced through the exploration and exploitation of legal topics. This will include legal texts, presentations, vocabulary and grammar exercises, 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

ISBN(13): 9789639641884  
Título: EU ENGLISH. USING ENGLISH IN EU CONTEXTS (2010)  
Autor/es: Anna Trebits ;  
Editorial: KLETT

Buscarlo en librería virtual UNED

Buscarlo en bibliotecas UNED

Buscarlo en la Biblioteca de Educación

Buscarlo en Catálogo del Patrimonio Bibliográfico

### Comentarios y anexos:

The compulsory handbook for the course will be the following:

Trebits, Anna (2010), *EU English. Using English in EU Contexts*. Klett.

In general, the following books are recommended:

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

GUBBY, H. (2006), *Practical Legal English: Legal Terminology*. Boom Juridische Uitgevers.

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 students 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.

## 9.BIBLIOGRAFÍA COMPLEMENTARIA

Comentarios y anexos:

A full bibliography will be provided in the online course.

## 10.RECURSOS DE APOYO AL ESTUDIO

Students will have a whole range of activities, resources, materials and assignments on the online course.

## 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

For each unit, the course tutors will include 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 (except for open-answer exercises) so that participants can self-assess their learning process. These self-assessment activities will not be part of the final mark.

For the final mark there will be 2 compulsory assignments. The first assignment will account for 20% of the final mark and the second one for 80% of the final mark. Both assignments must be submitted (1) in accordance with the instructions given and (2) in due time. Both conditions are a requirement for the assignments to be valid. Thus, any assignments submitted later than the specified time or not following the instructions will not be marked.

The 2 compulsory assignments will count as follows:

1. The first assignment will account for 20% of the final mark. Students will be provided with the instructions with sufficient time and notice on the on-line course and must follow them accordingly.
2. The second assignment will account for 80% of the final mark. Students will be provided with the instructions with sufficient time and notice on the on-line course and must follow them accordingly.



If one of the assignments is not submitted, or is submitted in contravention of the instructions, the student will not have a final mark.

### 13.COLABORADORES DOCENTES

- ROSA BAUTISTA CORDERO
- NEIL MCMAHON

