

# ASIGNATURA DE MÁSTER:

UNED

# ENGLISH FOR LAW

Curso 2016/2017

(Código: 26602478)

## 1. PRESENTACIÓN

"English for Law" enables participants to improve their command of legal English.

## 2. CONTEXTUALIZACIÓN

"English for Law" aims to: (1) improve students' skills in reading and understanding legal texts or texts on legal issues; (ii) strengthen their knowledge and command of the features of legal English; (iii) activate and expand their legal vocabulary and (iv) improve their grammar skills (in particular grammar issues specific to legal English).

Students will practise legal English skills, ranging from legal reading or vocabulary building to writing (in the assignments), among others.

## 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

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Enhance their knowledge, comprehension and command of legal English.
- Improve their skills in reading, writing (only in the assignments) and understanding legal texts or texts on legal issues in English.
- Become acquainted with and be able to identify the main features of legal English as against general English.
- Achieve a good command of legal English vocabulary in several areas, such as civil law, criminal law, commercial law, EU cooperation in civil and criminal matters, etc.

## 5. CONTENIDOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

The contents of this course include the materials which will be at the disposal of students on the online course, as listed below (this list is approximate only; more materials may be included to update current topics in the EU):

### 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: 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

- [EVA SAMANIEGO FERNANDEZ](#)
- [MONTSERRAT BERMUDEZ BAUSELA](#)

## 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 the materials at a time that suits them best within the duration of the course. Assignments, however, have submission deadlines that students must meet.

Students will have learning activities, materials, exercises and assignments at their disposal on the online course and they can seek the assistance of the "Equipo Docente" through 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, etc. A whole range of materials and resources will be used.

Active involvement in the online course is strongly encouraged and recommended. Interaction on the online course will take place in English unless the "Equipo Docente" indicate otherwise.

## 8.BIBLIOGRAFÍA BÁSICA

Comentarios y anexos:

The basic materials for this course will be available on the online course.

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 on 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 assess their own learning process. These self-assessment activities will not be part of the final mark.

For the final mark there will be two 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.

These two compulsory assignments will count as follows:

1. The first assignment (A1) will account for 20% of the final mark. According to UNED terminology, this would be a "PEC" ("Prueba de Evaluación Continua"). Students will be provided with the instructions with sufficient time and notice on the on-line course and must follow them accordingly. This first assignment will have to be submitted in the indicated time period before the "convocatoria ordinaria", both for students who decide to go for a final mark in February and for those who put it off till September (or who fail in February). Following standard practice at UNED, there will not be a second PEC (or A1) for those students going for the September "convocatoria" who have not submitted the PEC (or A1) in February, since all students must submit it within the specified deadline before the February "convocatoria".
2. The second assignment (A2) 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. For September there will be a different A2, so students must get in touch with the Coordinator (Eva Samaniego) by e-mail to request it.

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