OBJECTIVES

General Learning Outcomes:

This is a language course, not a law content course as the Law Faculty modules are. Legal topics and concepts are used in the course as vehicles to explore legal language.

By the end of the course the students should have acquired a basic knowledge of the main features of legal English, aspects of specialized **lexis**; the importance of legal **collocations** and formal **register**, considering different degrees of formality in text types within the large **genre** of legal English.

The course is based on the assumption that, in order to profit from the mobility programmes/exchanges available in foreign universities, the needs of the students lie predominantly in improving their **speaking skills**, in addition to listening and reading comprehension strategies; therefore an essential component of the course is learning to produce and deliver an **effective oral presentation** of a legal topic. Likewise, class-time is devoted to listening, note-taking and discussing the topics presented, as a group.

Due to constraints of time, written production and in particular legal drafting is not prioritised, although there are opportunities during the course to practice formal letter-writing, such as emails of advice, replies to letters before action and letters of application/motivation, which are marked and feedback given.

Specific Learning Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of the course, students should be able:

(At a linguistic level)
- to recognise and identify different legal text-types and assess their level of formality;
- to distinguish between lower-register and higher-register lexis;

(At content level)
- to understand the basic differences between common-law and civil law legal orders, with particular reference to differences between adversarial/inquisitorial systems;
- to understand the different training and roles of legal professionals within this system;
- to understand the basic structure of the courts in the UK (civil & criminal) and the jury system; outline of the trial process and elements of evidence, such as the burden & standard of proof; conviction & sentence in criminal cases; judgment & remedies in civil cases.
- to understand a range of specific legal lexis, from contract law, tort law, criminal law and company law.

Specific Learning Outcomes – Applied Knowledge, Skills and Competences

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- use a range of databases, online dictionaries and legal resources, including an introduction to using linguistic corpora;
- speak with confidence on a legal topic they are familiar with;
- use legal language confidently and accurately, based on the knowledge of collocations and specific lexis acquired over the course;
- make appropriate choices in register, based on the knowledge acquired over the course;
- understand audio extracts appropriate to B2 level including interviews, lectures & discussions on legal topics and process the information transmitted, using techniques acquired over the course;
- understand a range of legal texts appropriate to B2 level which may be journalistic, academic or normative, including effective ways to read statutes by applying analytic reading strategies;
- write a basic but accurate letter of motivation, advice, application, with appropriate layout.

[For further information on B2a level competences, see www.coe.int/lang-CEFR, and tables at p. 60 ff]

PREREQUISITES

The course is primarily aimed at students in the Law Faculty. To access the course, students should already have acquired at least B2 level competence in English. Certifications should not date from more than 3 years before the beginning of the course. This is the entry level for access to the course, so the language level at which the course aims is B2b/C1.

CONTENTS

- Introduction to some historical aspects of legal lexis and its derivation, (including an introduction to its etymology, in particular the influence of Norman French and Latin, overlaid on a Germanic (Anglo-Saxon) base. Some specific aspects of grammar are revisited, such as conditional/ hypothetical clauses, passive constructions and modal verbs of obligation, but it is not primarily a grammar course. Online resources, dictionaries & databases and introduction to the use of linguistic corpora. Strategies for doing effective oral presentations.
- Introduction to basic aspects and lexis of Criminal Law; criminal court system in the UK, role of prosecutor, defence, judge & jury. Burden of proof in criminal cases. Jury system, verdict, conviction & sentence. Types of crime; identity theft & white collar crime.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lessons in two 2-hour classes per week, a total of 40 academic hours. The course is held entirely in English. Students are expected to take an active part in the classes, discussions and pair-work.

ASSESSMENT

1) Oral part: continuous assessment over the course, taking into account student presentations and participation in class discussions. Each student must present, in English (as an individual or part of a group), a legal topic of their choice, previously agreed with the course teacher and supported, if desired, by Power Point slides and/or other visual/audio material.
2) Written part: a 90-minute written test including listening comprehension, reading comprehension (45 marks) and a piece of writing (180 - 250 words) such as an essay on a topic of general legal interest (15 marks). Pass requirement is 18/30 and the result expressed simply as pass/fail. The written test takes place in the final class of the course. The course carries 5 CFU.

COURSE BOOK
Units 1-5 only of *An Introduction to International Legal English*, Amy Krois-Lindner & Matt Firth, Cambridge University Press, 2008. Additional material will be supplied by the teacher during the course.

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<th>Legal English Syllabus - “C1”/Advanced level</th>
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**OBJECTIVES**

**General Learning Outcomes:**

This is a language course, not a law content course as the Law Faculty modules are. Legal topics and concepts are used in the course as vehicles to explore legal language.

By the end of the course the students should have acquired a good knowledge of the main features of legal English, aspects of specialized *lexis*; the importance of legal *collocations* and formal *register*, including phrasal verbs in legal English, by considering various text types and their different degrees of formality within the large *genre* of legal English.

The course is based on the assumption that, in order to profit from the mobility programmes/exchanges available in foreign universities, the needs of the students lie predominantly in improving their *speaking* skills, in addition to *listening* and *reading comprehension* strategies; therefore an essential component of the course is learning to produce and deliver an *effective oral presentation* of a legal topic. Likewise, class-time is devoted to listening, note-taking and discussing the topics presented, as a group.

Due to constraints of time, written production and in particular legal drafting is not prioritised, although there are opportunities during the course to practise formal letter-writing, such as letters of application/motivation, writing or responding to a letter before action, using appropriate layout & register, which are marked and feedback given.

**Specific Learning Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding**

By the end of the course, students should be able:

(At a linguistic level)
- to recognise and identify different legal text-types and assess their level of formality;
- to distinguish between lower-register and higher-register *lexis*;

(At content level)
- to understand the basic differences between common-law and civil law legal orders, with particular reference to differences between adversarial/inquisitorial systems;
- to understand the different training and roles of legal professionals within this system;
- to understand the basic structure of the courts in the UK (civil & criminal) and the jury system; outline of the trial process and elements of evidence, such as the burden & standard of proof, admissibility and hearsay; verdict, conviction & sentence in criminal cases; judgment & remedies in civil cases.
- to understand a range of specific legal lexis, from intellectual property law, real property law, litigation and arbitration, including alternative dispute resolution, and international law.

**Specific Learning Outcomes – Applied Knowledge, Skills and Competences**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- use a wide range of databases, online dictionaries and legal resources, including an introduction to using linguistic corpora;
- speak with confidence on a legal topic they are familiar with; give a clear, systematically developed presentation; keep up an animated discussion; identify arguments supporting and opposing points of view; present and respond to complex lines of argument convincingly;
- use legal language confidently and accurately and make appropriate choices in register, based on the knowledge of collocations and specific lexis acquired over the course;
- understand audio extracts appropriate to B2b/C1 level including interviews, lectures & discussions on legal topics and process the information transmitted, using techniques acquired over the course;
- understand a range of legal texts appropriate to B2b/C1 level which may be journalistic, academic or normative, including effective ways to read statutes by applying analytic reading strategies;
- write an articulate and accurate letter of motivation, advice, application, with appropriate layout.

[For further information on B2b/C1 level competences, see www.coe.int/lang-CEFR, and tables at p. 60 ff]

PREREQUISITES

The course is primarily aimed at students in the Law Faculty. To access the course, students should already have acquired at least C1 level competence in English. Certifications should not date from more than 3 years before the beginning of the course. Students who have successfully completed the B2/Upper Intermediate level of Legal English may access this course without a C1 certificate. This is the entry level for access to the course, so the level at which the course aims is C1+

CONTENTS

- Introduction to some historical aspects of legal lexis and its derivation, (including an introduction to its etymology, in particular the influence of Norman French and Latin, overlaid on a Germanic (Anglo-Saxon) base. Law French and Latinisms in modern legal English. Some specific aspects of grammar are revisited, such as negative adjectives, archaic pronominal adverbs (thereto, hereby etc), modal verbs of obligation, connectors & discourse markers, but this is not primarily a grammar course. Online resources, dictionaries & databases and introduction to the use of linguistic corpora for collocations. Strategies for doing effective oral presentations.
- Introduction to the some aspects and lexis of Real Property Law. Types of property – real & personal. Freeholds & leaseholds; landlord & tenant; lease agreements. Buy to let; key terms in conveyancing.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lessons in two 2-hour classes per week, a total of 40 academic hours. The course is held entirely in English. Students are expected to take an active part in the classes, discussions and pair-work.

ASSESSMENT
1) Oral part: continuous assessment over the course, taking into account student presentations and participation in class discussions. Each student must present, in English (as an individual or part of a group), a legal topic of their choice, previously agreed with the course teacher and supported, if desired, by Power Point slides and/or other visual/audio material.

2) Written part: a 90-minute written test including listening comprehension, reading comprehension (45 marks) and a piece of writing (300 - 320 words) such as an essay on a topic of general legal interest (15 marks). Pass requirement is 18/30 and the result expressed simply as pass/fail. The written test takes place in the final class of the course. The course carries 5 CFU.

COURSE BOOK
Units 6 -10 only of *An Introduction to International Legal English*, Amy Krois-Lindner & Matt Firth, Cambridge University Press, 2008. Additional material will be supplied by the teacher during the course.