Syllabus: Legal English-- B2 level

OUTCOMES

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.

While a selection of legal terminology in each legal topic area is presented throughout the course, mastering legal English requires more than simply improving your knowledge of specialized vocabulary.

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 programs/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.

Due to constraints of time, written production and in particular legal drafting is not prioritized, 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.

Specific Learning Outcomes

This course is focused on improving your language skills at the B2 level. This course will:

- Strengthen speaking skills and enable students to engage more effectively in a range of speaking situations typical of the study of law and the practice of law, such as client interviews or discussions with colleagues and fellow students;
- Improve the ability to read, understand, and analyze a range of legal texts, such as legislation and legal correspondence;
- Improve comprehension of spoken English when it is used to speak about legal topics in lectures, presentations, interviews, and discussions appropriate to B2 level; and
- Improve the ability to write basic but accurate legal correspondence.

Students will also improve their abilities to:

- 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; and
- use a range of databases, online dictionaries and legal resources, including an introduction to using linguistic corpora.
The course is primarily aimed at serving the educational needs of 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.

CONTENTS

The course concentrates on the use of Legal English within the following areas of law: A Career in Law, Contract Law, Tort Law, Criminal Law, and Company Law.

As noted above, this is a language course rather than a law content course. 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, and databases are introduced as is the use of linguistic corpora. In addition, the course covers strategies for doing effective oral presentations.

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

Continuous language assessment (50%)

- Homework assignments, considered mandatory
- Classroom participation
- Writing tasks
- Oral Presentation
  - Presentation - 7 to 10 minutes with Q&A
  - Self assessment/ reflection
- Peer feedback

Final written exam (50%) 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.

Assessment criteria for this course rely upon the scales set out in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), an international standard for determining language capabilities established by the Council of Europe. Please refer to the CEFR B2/C1 levels for further information.

COURSE BOOK

Introduction to International Legal English, 2021 edition
Editor: TransLegal
Author(s): Matt Firth and Amy Bruno-Lindner
ISBN: N/A
Signup: https://www.translegal.com/TRENTO21ITILE/
This is a private signup link giving a greatly reduced price on the book to the University of Trento students. Students just need to follow this link, register (or login) and pay for the book. After this, they
will receive a login link. If there are any questions, please do contact anytime here or via +3620 467 5774.

Description of the e-book:

*Introduction to international legal English* (digital edition) is a task-based course covering a wide range of situations in which lawyers need to communicate with clients and colleagues in English, including: understanding and drafting contracts, negotiating an out of court agreement, dealing with colleagues and clients, and writing legal correspondence. It also covers important areas of academic legal English, such as legal research, preparing a case note, understanding legislation, and working with academic legal texts.

The course focuses on a variety of legal topics including contract law, company law, litigation arbitration, criminal law, and comparative law. Using authentic legal texts and case studies on the course develops learners' understanding of the law while simultaneously consolidating the language skills. Featuring both academic and professional context, *introduction to international legal English* (digital edition) develops the code for key skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Additional material will be supplied by the teacher during the course.

**Syllabus: Advanced Legal English-- C1 level**

**OUTCOMES**

**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.

While a selection of legal terminology in each legal topic area is presented throughout the course, mastering legal English requires more than simply improving your knowledge of specialized vocabulary.

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 programs/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.

Due to constraints of time, written production and in particular legal drafting is not prioritized, 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.

**Specific Learning Outcomes**

This course is focused on improving your language skills at the B2 level. This course will:

- Strengthen speaking skills and enable students to engage more effectively in a range of speaking situations typical of the study of law and the practice of law, such as client interviews or discussions with colleagues and fellow students;
• Improve the ability to read, understand, and analyze a range of legal texts, such as legislation and legal correspondence;
• Improve comprehension of spoken English when it is used to speak about legal topics in lectures, presentations, interviews, and discussions appropriate to C1 level; and
• Improve the ability to write basic but accurate legal correspondence.

Students will also improve their abilities to:

• 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; and
• use a range of databases, online dictionaries and legal resources, including an introduction to using linguistic corpora.

The course is primarily aimed at serving the educational needs of 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.

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


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

Continuous language assessment (50%)

- Homework assignments, considered mandatory
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Assessment criteria for this course rely upon the scales set out in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), an international standard for determining language capabilities established by the Council of Europe. Please refer to the CEFR B2/C1 levels for further information.

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The course focuses on a variety of legal topics including contract law, company law, litigation arbitration, criminal law, and comparative law. Using authentic legal texts and case studies on the course develops learners' understanding of the law while simultaneously consolidating the language skills. Featuring both academic and professional context, introduction to international legal English (digital edition) develops the code for key skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Additional material will be supplied by the teacher during the course.