# Inglese giuridico/Legal English

Prof. Rachel McNamara Coyne

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to English as it is used in a range of legal environments and legal texts. Students will not only become familiar with English law legal terminology but they will also learn to recognise and use the specific linguistic features of legal English. In the course of their studies, students will work on perfecting their language skills in the four skills areas of reading and comprehension, writing, listening and speaking. In particular, students will work on their legal writing, legal drafting and oral skills. The course is designed to equip students with some of the practical skills that will be useful to them when they go on to practice law or otherwise work in the legal sector.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

– discuss the content of the course and any prescribed reading material;

– summarise and personalise the content of any prescribed reading material;

– demonstrate a knowledge of and ability to utilise legal terminology in distinct legal contexts;

– demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to utilise the linguistic features of legal English in a range of legal contexts;

– demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to discuss the structure and content of a legal agreement in a range of legal practice areas;

– demonstrate an ability to analyse legal documents;

– demonstrate an ability to independently proofread and produce a range of legal texts including (but not limited to) a legal letter, a letter or email of action, a statement of claim, a response to a claim, and a legal judgment; and

– demonstrate an ability to draft or amend provisions in a variety of contracts and other legal documentation.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will seek to develop students’ legal skills and knowledge across the following legal practice areas:

– contract law

– tort law

– criminal law

– employment law

– company law

– commercial law

– litigation, arbitration and dispute resolution

– international law

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Compulsory textbook (for attending and non-attending students):

A. Krois-Linder-M. Firth and Translegal, *Introduction to International Legal English*,

Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Additional material (comprising compulsory and optional readings and exercises) will be made available by the lecturer in blackboard over the course of the academic year.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Interactive lectures, in-class individual and group work , presentations and/or negotiations. Students are expected to take an active role in class and will be required to prepare material outside of class time for in-class work and presentations.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment consists of a written exam and an oral exam, which are obligatory for both attending and non-attending students. To qualify for the oral exam students must first pass the written exam which consists of a MCQ test and a take home written Assignment (the aggregate minimum pass mark is 18/30).

The first attempt at the written exam will take place at the end of the first semester. It will assess students’ reading, comprehension and writing skills across core course content covered in the first semester.

The first attempt at the oral exam will take place at the end of the second semester. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the course content, their use of appropriate legal lexis and on their effective communciation skills.

In addition, attending students with a minimum attendance rate of 70% can receive up to 30% of their overall mark based on their performance on in-class assignments.

Further details about the written and oral exam may be found in the Exam Materials folder in Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a B2 level (CEFR) of English.

The course in taught in English and students must enrol in the course on Blackboard where the course materials are uploaded.

This is a course in English for a Specific Purpose and as such attendance is highly recommended.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

The lecturer is available in the lectureroom before and after classes. It is also possible to arrange a meeting via Teams.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)