



# UNIVERSITY OF NIŠ

**Course Unit Descriptor**

**Faculty**

**Faculty of Law**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Study program

Undergraduate Academic Law Study Program (LL.B. degree)

Study Module (if applicable)

/

Course title

**Legal English 1**

Level of study

Bachelor       Master's       Doctoral

Type of course

Obligatory       **Elective**

Semester

Autumn       Spring

Year of study

3<sup>rd</sup> year of undergraduate studies

Number of ECTS allocated

6 ECTS

Name of lecturer/lecturers

Gordana Ignjatović, BA

Teaching mode

Lectures       Group tutorials       Individual tutorials  
 Laboratory work       Project work       Seminar  
 Distance learning       Blended learning (elements of flipped class)  
 Other (simulations, student presentations)

## PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW (max. 5 sentences)

**Aims:** to introduce students to the basic Legal English terminology and legal culture in the field of Criminal law and Civil law by focusing on comparative approach to basic legal institutes and processes in the Anglo-Saxon/American and European-Continental system; to improve understanding of grammar, syntax and structures; to develop integrated language skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing) by exposure to legal texts of various genres; to facilitate contextualized practice of integrated language skills in order to develop analytical and critical thinking skills; to develop social communication and professional skills for prospective academic/professional purposes; to promote active participation in the interactive learning process, learner responsibility, team work, confidence-building, independence and learner autonomy for life-long learning.

**Outcomes:** By the end of the course, students will be able to: 1) understand/explain and use general/specialised legal terminology in these areas to communicate more accurately, fluently and effectively in discussions, case studies, simulations, problem-solving; 2) read/listen and understand legal texts of different genres (cases, judgments, legal memos/reports, documents); identify, classify and summarize relevant information, describe/interpret tables/charts, draw conclusions, discuss implications, and use it appropriately spoken or written discourse; 3) adequately use language functions and discourse markers in different legal contexts to express an opinion or argue a standpoint (agree/disagree, contrast/compare, give advice/proposal) and write a paragraph/essay on a given issue; 4) demonstrate social communication and professional skills (legal research, critical thinking, legal reasoning, argumentation, case analysis, problem-solving); 5) demonstrate a higher-intermediate level of linguistic competences and apply the acquired competences and skills in new learning and real-life situations.

**SYLLABUS (brief outline and summary of topics, max. 10 sentences)**

1. **Criminal Law:** classification of crimes, criminal offenders; areas of criminal law; Noun-forming suffixes; Describing events, people, crime scene; Passive Voice; Case study: Crime and Punishment
2. **Police Powers:** Collective Nouns; Prepositions; Reported Speech: Reporting Statements, Commands & Requests; Case study: Exploring legal concepts: probable cause, reasonable force; Understanding a court decision
3. **Criminal Procedure:** Pre-trial, Trial and Post-trial proceedings; participants, legal standards; Trial advocacy skills: Opening Statement and Closing Argument; Questions in Trial; Reporting Questions; Case study
4. **Criminal Liability and Defences:** Elements of crime; Case study: Discussing charges and degrees of culpability; defences to crime; jury instruction; deliberation; Sequence of Tense; Project: Mock trial
5. **Civil Law:** Criminal vs. Civil law; Civil law areas; legal terminology, remedies; Sequence of Tenses; *Legal skills:* Legal Research, Analysis and Reasoning, Writing: A legal memo
6. **Civil Procedure:** Pre-Trial Proceedings; Civil Trial; Post-trial proceedings (appellate procedure); Adverbial Clauses; Word Building; Collocations; Asking Indirect Questions; Case study
7. **Tort Law:** Types of torts; legal terminology and standards; Adjective-forming suffixes; Modal verbs+Perfect Infinitive; Legal skills: Client Letter and Legal Advice; Case study: Exploring legal standards/liability in torts; Project: Mock Trial
8. **Family Law:** Areas; Marriage/Termination; Case: Reconciliation or Divorce; Gender of Nouns; Possessive Case; Noun-forming Suffixes; Negative Prefixes; Conditionals (1, 2,3); Children's rights; Domestic violence (court orders);
9. **Succession Law:** Testate and Intestate Succession, legal terminology; case study; collocations; Legal doc: Will; Language of wills; Infinitives (Active/Passive); The Perfect Infinitive; Legal Correspondence: Letters to institutions

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

- Serbian (complete course)     
  English (complete course)     
  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (complete course)
- Serbian with English mentoring     
  Serbian with other mentoring \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA**

Pre exam duties	Points	Final exam	points
Activity during lectures	10	Written examination (mid-term & end-term tests)	50
Practical teaching	10	Oral examination	30
Teaching colloquia		OVERALL SUM	100

\*Final examination mark is formed in accordance with the Institutional documents