

Study Tools

Code: 102251
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Law	FB	1

Contact

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Teachers

Mariona Torra Cot

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Alex Bas Vilafranca

Maria Isabel Garcia Ruiz

Maria Barcons Campmajo

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

The teaching of the course will be delivered with consideration for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) perspective.

Lecturers and language of instruction by group:

Group 1: Profs. Josep Cañabate Pérez, Marc H. Vallès. Language: Catalan/Spanish.

Group 2: Prof. Mariona Torra Cot. Language: Catalan.

Group 3: Prof. María José Sánchez López. Language: Spanish.

Group 4: Prof. Maria Barcons Campmajó. Language: Catalan.

Group 5: Prof. Joaquin David Rodríguez Álvarez. Language: Catalan.

Group 6: Prof. María José Sánchez López. Language: Spanish.

Group 51: Profs. Àlex Bas Vilafranca, José Antonio González Clapham. Language: Catalan/Spanish.

Group 52: Prof. Maria Isabel García Ruiz. Language: Spanish.

Group 70: Profs. to be determined. Language: Catalan/Spanish.

Group 71: Profs. to be determined. Language: Catalan/Spanish.

Group 72: Prof. Laura Cappuccio, Prof. Alfredo Ramírez Nardiz. Language: Spanish.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Instruments for Legal Study is a first-semester, first-year course in the Law Degree program. Its aim is to provide students with a set of useful tools for their academic development as future law graduates. These tools include information retrieval, legal argumentation, oral and written expression, and document drafting - all of which are oriented toward the legal field. These tools do not directly involve the acquisition of legal knowledge, but rather seek to help students develop a series of non-specifically legal competencies that are essential both for their academic progress (such as researching legislation and case law) and for their future professional work as jurists (oral and written communication, drafting legal documents, etc.). In addition, students will become familiar with the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) as they relate to legal professions. Special emphasis will be placed on the use of electronic legal databases, digital knowledge management tools, and electronic academic administration systems - such as the virtual campus - along with an introductory understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and LegalTech tools, which are fundamental in the context of the digital transformation of law. These tools provide the basic guidelines for new forms of communication with public or judicial administrations and for accessing, managing, and analyzing legal information. A critical reflection on the use of the Internet as a source of legal information will also be included, considering its advantages and limitations.

In the section on Oral and Written Expression, students will take part in several sessions: one on public speaking, one on legal language, and another on legal argumentation. These skills will be put into practice through a legal debate league involving all groups of *Instruments for Legal Study*. The activity will take place in two phases:

- a) an internal phase within each group,
- b) a final phase with the winning teams from each group.

The teaching staff will propose the legal topics and organize the teams within each group. This activity aims to promote collaborative work, enhance skills in legal information research, and develop the ability to present oral arguments in a coherent and structured way.

Regarding the section on Study Techniques, a dedicated lecture will be held on the subject. The overall objective of the course is to provide students with a range of transversal skills that are essential for a successful adaptation to the Law Degree program.

Competences

- Drawing up legal texts (contracts, judgements, sentences, writs, rulings, wills, legislation...).
- Managing bibliographic and documentary resources: databases, browsing, etc.
- Mastering the computing techniques when it comes to obtaining legal information (legislation databases, jurisprudence, bibliography...) and in data communication.

- Memorising and utilising legal terminology.
- Present information in a way that is appropriate to the type of audience.
- Students must be capable of demonstrating a critical awareness of the analysis of the legal system and development of legal dialectics.
- Working in teams, being either a member or a coordinator of working groups, as well as making decisions affecting the whole group.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing, in a critical way, key aspects of some branches of the legal system.
2. Applying appropriate legal dialectics.
3. Distinguishing the most frequent databases in the legal practice.
4. Managing bibliographic and documentary resources: databases, browsing, etc.
5. Preparing or forging networks for the communication of the obtained data.
6. Present information in a way that is appropriate to the type of audience.
7. Selecting through computing networks the appropriate bibliographical sources for a concrete work.
8. Using in a practical way the theoretical concepts that will be later developed in some of the degree's subjects.
9. Using the legal terminology through preparatory materials.
10. Working in teams, being either a member or a coordinator of working groups, as well as making decisions affecting the whole group.

Content

1. Legal databases: identification and use of databases for legislation, case law, and legal bibliography. Introduction to digital legal platforms and advanced search tools.
2. Methodology for writing research papers and academic essays: structure criteria, sources, citation systems, and academic writing. Use of reference management tools and an introduction to artificial intelligence (AI) applications as support in organizing and planning academic work.
3. Acquisition of legal language.
4. Study techniques and time management.
5. Critical commentary and analysis of legal texts.
6. Legal writing and written communication.
7. Oral communication and legal argumentation.
8. Group work in the legal field.
9. Participation in a legal debate league involving all *Instruments for Legal Study* groups. Debates will be held within each group on topics previously selected by the course instructors. The winning team from each group will participate in a final round to determine a single winning team. The use of digital tools and AI will be encouraged to support the preparation of arguments and the research of legal information.
10. Governing bodies of the UAB and student participation.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and principal active participation of professor (Sessions 1, 2, 3 (two thirds) 4 (two thirds), 5, 8 (two thirds), 9 (half), 10 (half))	22	0.88	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8
Lectures and principal active participation of students	22	0.88	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Documentation and bibliography search	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8, 9
Study	20	0.8	
Work group out of classroom	24	0.96	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8
Writing and preparation of works	30	1.2	1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 8, 9

The course is structured around a weekly session lasting three hours and fifteen minutes (this duration may vary in double degree programs). Below is a list of the sessions that will be held. The order of sessions may vary depending on the group.

1. Introduction to the course, organization of group activities, and written placement test.
2. Session on study techniques and time management.
3. Session on legal language (with special emphasis on gender perspective).
4. Session on legal discourse and written communication.
5. Session on commentary and critical analysis of legal texts.
6. Session on oral communication and legal argumentation.
7. Session on methodology for writing academic papers and essays.
8. Session on writing book reviews.
9. Session on managing legal information sources (legal databases, online resources, etc.), including an introduction to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to support legal research and information organization.
10. Session on oral presentation techniques.
11. First legal debate session within each group.
12. Second legal debate session within each group.
13. UAB governing bodies and student participation.
14. Third legal debate session within each group.
15. Final debate league.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Documentation and Bibliography Search	18,5%	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 8
Lectures and principal active participation of professor (Sessions 1, 2, 3 (two thirds) 4 (two thirds), 5, 8 (two thirds), 9 (half), 10 (half))	14,81%	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8
Lectures and student active participation	18,5%	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8
Study	14,81%	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8, 9
Work out classroom	18,5%	2	0.08	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 8
Writing and presentation of works	25,92%	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 8

Assessment System for Competency Acquisition and Grading Criteria

The assessment is based on continuous monitoring of students' work throughout the course. Each activity-whether completed in class or outside-will be assessed and factored into the final grade. Specifically, the following activities and assignments make up the evaluation structure:

1. Dossier on legal language: up to 1 point
2. Assignment on methodology for writing research papers and legal essays: up to 1 point
3. Written exercise involving the drafting of a legal text (written argumentation): up to 1.5 points
4. Commentary and critical analysis of a legal text: up to 1.5 points
5. Exercise on study techniques and time management: up to 1 point
6. Exercise on legal databases and online resources (research on legislation, case law, and legal doctrine): up to 2 points
7. Group work (legal debate / oral expression): up to 2 points

Assignments 1 and 6 must be completed outside class and submitted electronically to the instructor before the established deadlines. Strict adherence to deadlines is a core feature of this course. In the legal field, deadlines and compliance are of paramount importance; therefore, late submissions will not be accepted,

unless there is a duly justified and documented reason. Likewise, if an exercise is scheduled to take place in class on a specific day and the student cannot attend, no make-up opportunity will be provided. This inflexible approach is part of the training of future jurists, who must understand from the outset that deadlines are non-negotiable.

Attendance is mandatory. Missing a practical session or in-class activity cannot be replaced with an alternative assignment done at home, as this would undermine the pedagogical objectives of the session.

Students will be eligible for evaluation only if they have completed activities that account for at least two-thirds of the total course grade. If the total weight of the submitted activities does not reach this threshold, the instructor may consider the student "not assessable". Students who arrive late to a practical or in-class activity will not be allowed to participate.

In cases where no assignments are submitted and no activities are completed, or only one or two are submitted, the final grade will be "not submitted". Once three or more assignments have been submitted, this grade can no longer be applied.

Students who leave a practical session, activity, or lecture before its conclusion may also receive a grade of "not submitted". To this end, instructors are authorized to check attendance at the end of each session.

The final grade for the course will be rounded up to the nearest whole number when it is within one tenth of a grade that results in a higher qualitative assessment. For example: grades of 4.9, 6.9, or 8.9 will be automatically rounded to 5, 7, or 9, respectively, without requiring any additional work from the student. A designated day will be provided for students to review their grades with the instructor.

Please note that assessment in *Instruments for Legal Study* is entirely continuous. Therefore, there is no final exam and no resit option. This course does not offer a single-assessment pathway.

Restricted Use of AI:

For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as bibliographic or informational research, text correction, or translations, as well as in those cases deemed necessary by the teaching staff for the development of classroom or homework activities. Students must clearly identify which parts have been generated using such technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these tools have influenced both the process and the final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency in the use of AI in this graded activity will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and may result in partial or total penalties in the grading of the activity, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

Bibliography

In class and through the Virtual Campus, the necessary information will be provided in each case, depending on the topics selected by each student for the legal news dossier, as well as on the various subjects proposed for the argumentation exercises, university assignments, and group work. The general recommended bibliography for the course is as follows:

Atienza, Manuel, *Curso de argumentación jurídica*, Trotta, 2013.

Beas Franco, Josefina, Santa Cruz Valenzuela, Josefina, Thomsem Queirolo, Paulina, Utreras García Soledad, *Enseñar a pensar para aprender mejor*, Ediciones Universidad Católica de Chile, 2003.

Bermúdez, Manuel, Lucena, Jorge, *Manual de debate. Guía práctica para desarrollar tus habilidades en el debate académico y la oratoria*, Editorial Berenice, 2019.

Bonomo Hernán, Mamberti, Juan, M., Miller, Jackson, B., *Tolerancia crítica y ciudadanía activa: una introducción práctica al debate educativo*, International Education Debate Association, 2010.

Hermosillo Lozano, Judith, Albornoz Barrientos, Jorge, *Manual básico del debatiente*, Mar adentro, 2010.

Lucas, Stephen, E. *The art of public speaking*, McGraw Hill, 2011.

Swatridge, Colin, *Oxford Guide to Effective Argument & Critical Thinking*, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Toulmin, Stephen, E., *Los usos de la argumentación*, Península, 2007.

Turull, Max (Dir.), *Tècniques de treball i comunicació. Instrumentarium per a les ciències socials i jurídiques*. Huygens editorial. 2011 .

Web links:

www.westlaw.es

www.tirantonline.es

www.uab.cat

www.gencat.cat

www.congreso.es

www.senado.es

www.europa.eu

www.etc.uab.cat/ted

Software

The subject does not require any specific software.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	1	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	2	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	3	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	4	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	5	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	6	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	51	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	afternoon
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	52	Spanish	first semester	afternoon

(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	70	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	71	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup)	72	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed