



Universidad
de Alcalá

COURSE

DESCRIP
FOUNDATIONS OF LAW
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Degree in Law

Optional and Cross-cutting
(Degrees in Social Sciences)

University of Alcalá

Academic Year 2018/2019

Second Semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Name:	Foundations of Law
Code:	400075
Degree:	Degree in Law
Department and Academic Discipline:	Department of Law Science Labour Law and Social Security
Type:	Elective and cross-cutting
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) Credits:	6
Year and Semester:	Concentrated in first three months of the Second Semester
Teaching Staff:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ph. D. Prof. Tatsiana Ushakova - Visiting scholars from foreign universities
Tutorial Schedule:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual: to be arranged by e-mail: tatsiana.ushakova@uah.es - In groups: to be scheduled in class
Language of Instruction:	English

1. INTRODUCTION

Foundations of Law is mainly designed for students of the Degree in Law who are interested in acquiring an interdisciplinary outlook of legal issues, as well as for those from other degrees, such as Business, Economics, History or Social Science, who wish to complement their knowledge with law perspective. Students are expected to develop and improve reading and writing abilities and analytical capacities in the sphere of cross-cutting legal aspects. They are also expected to develop theoretical and conflict solving skills on social, political and ethical issues with relevant legal implication by exploring specific legal problem through an interdisciplinary approach.

This course provides students with a basic understanding of International, European and Comparative law, focusing on controversial aspects which are relevant to understand any legal topic.

The broad interdisciplinary nature of the content allows for the participation of foreign Visiting Professors, in particular, lecturers from prestigious European universities, financed by the UAH *Giner de los Ríos* Fellowship Programme.

The content of the course covers a wide range of legal topics, including subjects of law, institutional aspects, creation, execution and enforcement of law, leading case-

law and relationship between the different legal systems approached from the national, European and global perspectives. The discussion will address the most conflictive questions of comparative, cultural and other law issues, which have an important impact on policy, economic development, society and employment.

The course has been inscribed in the process of internationalisation of the Law School providing its teaching staff and students with an opportunity to be in contact with the latest development of different legal questions presented by foreign lecturers. In addition, the students of the Law School can acquire knowledge and skills to learn more about their future job opportunities.

Summary:

Foundations of Law is an optional and cross-cutting course designed for students from Degree in Law who are interested in interdisciplinary study of legal and social issues and for those from other Degree in Social Sciences who wish to get a broader knowledge on modern and controversial legal aspects. Students are supposed to improve their reading, writing and analytical skills and to develop critical opinions on controversial problems concerning International, European and national legal systems using a comprehensive approach. They also gain theoretical and analytical perspectives on ethical, political and social issues relevant to law by exploring selected legal problems through an interdisciplinary lens.

2. SKILLS

General skills:

1. Analysing, understanding and summarising theoretical information.
2. Engaging in reflective, critical and autonomous learning.
3. Solving legal problems and applying theoretical knowledge to practical cases by identifying conflicts.
4. Developing and defending positions through arguments and legal reasoning.
5. Developing the social skills needed for teamwork, cooperation and collaboration and understanding the difficulties and benefits inherent in collaborative work.
6. Applying the skills needed to search for legal information.
7. Developing skills related to written and oral communication.

Specific skills:

1. Acquiring basic knowledge on interdisciplinary legal questions, keeping abreast of the latest developments in the legal and scientific fields.
2. Analysing and summarising information and studying the theoretical and practical content of the discipline using reading materials published in English.
3. Problem-solving and the practical application of knowledge by interpreting rules and legal arguments in written and oral exercises. These activities may be done individually or in groups.
4. Being able to make critical judgments about the current controversial issues of law.
5. Acquiring the autonomous learning skills needed for further study.

3. SYLLABUS

Module Contents (The individual units may be further clarified if necessary)	Total credits
Part I. Introduction by addressing fundamental legal principles and rights in the global context. Selected topics for discussion.	1,5 cr.
Part II. Theories of labour relations: International and transnational aspects. Selected topics for discussion.	1,5 cr.
Part III. Introduction to the European Convention of Human Rights. Especial reference to the individual application before the European Court of Human Rights. Selected topics for discussion.	3 cr.

Teaching Schedule (Optional)

Week / Session	Syllabus
1 st	Part I. Introduction by addressing fundamental legal principles and values in the global context
2 nd	• Continued
3 rd	• Continued
4 th	Part II. Theories of labour relations: International and transnational aspects.
5 th	• Continued
6 th	• Continued
7 th	Part III. Introduction to the European Convention of Human Rights. Especial reference to the individual application before the European Court of Human Rights.
8 th	• Continued
9 th	• Continued
10 th	• Continued

4. TEACHING- LEARNING METHODOLOGY. PRACTICAL WORK.

4.1. Distribution of Credits (In hours)

Number of Classroom Hours:	45 (Classes in large and small groups)
Number of Hours of Independent Work:	105 (Independent study, preparation for activities, exams and on-line activities).
Total Number of Hours	150

4.2. Methodological strategies, materials and didactic resources

Individual work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading - Finding appropriate sources of information - Case study and exercises - Essay
In-class work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theory and practice - Work in group and individually - Case-law analysis - Discussion on controversial legal questions - Presentation of topics
Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active participation in discussion - Obligatory attendance to the seminars delivered by visiting professors
Tutorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group tutorials and individual meetings

5. ASSESSMENT: Procedures, assessment criteria and grading system

Assessment criteria

A) Continuous assessment system: This is the preferred method of assessment in the standard examination session (i.e. when students are being assessed for the first time). Therefore, it is the method that is normally used, except in the case of students who are recognized as being eligible for the final exam.

In order to be eligible for continuous assessment students must attend at least 80% of classes.

Students who do not inform the Faculty of Law that they wish to opt out of the continuous assessment option will be considered as having failed to participate in the assessment process for the module and will not be allowed to attend the final exam.

Students who choose the continuous assessment option and don't comply with the basic requirements of attendance and participation or who make a unilateral decision to opt out of the continuous assessment system will be given a 'fail' result.

B) Final assessment system: In the standard examination session this method of assessment is only available to students who have been recognized as eligible for the final exam in accordance with the assumptions and conditions that are expressly stipulated in the regulations governing learning assessment procedures, adopted by the Governing Council of the University of Alcalá. Therefore, students must apply in writing to the Dean in the first two weeks of teaching, explaining why they cannot participate in the continuous assessment process.

In the repeat examination session all students are assessed by means of the final assessment system.

The final assessment is a written exam with theoretical and practical components.

Assessment Criteria

- Knowledge of the core legal concepts.
- Ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice.
- Originality, accuracy and clarity of expression in practical sessions and debates.
- Use of recommended reading materials.
- Oral presentation of indicated topics.
- Quality of a written essay on indicated topics.
- Regular attendance and participation in sessions and seminars.

Grading System

According to the Royal Decree 1125/2003, which entered into force on 5 September and which regulates the Diploma Supplement, the grading system should use the following scale, which applies both numerical (with one decimal) and qualitative marks:

0.0 – 4.9 FAIL

5.0 – 6.9 PASS

7.0 – 8.9 MERIT

9.0 – 10 DISTINCTION

9.0 – 10 STARRED DISTINCTION (limited to 5% of students)

A) The continuous assessment method is based on the following criteria:

The final mark consists of the following components:

- Regular attendance (80% of the sessions): 10% of the mark;
- High-quality and regular character of participation in class activities and in discussion, including oral presentation of the indicated topic: 30% of the mark;
- A written essay: 60% of the mark.

B) The final exam takes into account the following criteria:

- a) General contents of the course: 40% of the mark, and
- b) Contents related to the topics selected for written papers: 60%.

6. RECOMMENDED READING

Reading materials will be provided during the course.