

1. OVERVIEW

Subject Area	Comparative Legal Systems
Degree	Bachelor's Degree in Law
School/Faculty	Social Sciences and Communication
Year	First
ECTS	6 ECTS
Type	Core
Language(s)	Spanish
Delivery Mode	On-campus/Online
Semester	First semester

2. INTRODUCTION

The subject area of Comparative Legal Systems is essential in a globalised world, where all kinds of legal relationships (commercial, civil, employment, etc.) are established between subjects who belong to different legal systems. The aim of this subject area is to equip future legal professionals with the tools needed to develop a mindset of legal pluralism, in order to exercise their profession in a world without borders. Students will learn about the legal framework of the countries with which they will be interacting, their underlying principles, sources of law, political framework, institutions, etc. Comparison with other legal systems will also help them to evaluate their own legal system and identify its weaknesses, with a view to future reforms.

3. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Basic skills (CB, by their acronym in Spanish):

- CB1: Students have shown their knowledge and understanding of a study area originating from general secondary school education, and are usually at the level where, with the support of more advanced textbooks, they may also demonstrate awareness of the latest developments in their field of study.
- CB2: Students can apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the skills which are usually evident through the forming and defending of opinions and resolving problems within their study area.
- CB3: Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their study area) to form opinions which include reflecting on relevant social, scientific or ethical matters.

Cross-curricular skills (CT, by their acronym in Spanish):

- CT2: Ability to analyse and synthesise: be able to break down complex problems into manageable blocks; evaluate other options and perspectives to find the ideal solution. Synthesising to reduce the complexity and better understand the situation and/or solve problems.
- CT3: Ability to put knowledge into practice, using the skills acquired through the study of mock situations based faithfully on real life issues in the relevant profession.
- CT4: Oral or written communication: Ability to communicate and gather information, ideas, opinions and viewpoints to understand and be able to act, spoken through words or gestures or written through words and/or graphic elements.
- CT8: Critical reasoning. Ability to analyse an idea, occurrence or situation from different perspectives and adopt a personal viewpoint based on scientific rigour and objective reasoning, rather than intuition.

Specific skills (CE, by their acronym in Spanish):

- CE2: Ability to understand the law as a systematic, coherent whole, taking into account issues within the socioeconomic context.
- CE7: Ability to develop critical awareness in the analysis of the legal system.
- CE8: Ability to identify legal issues and provide appropriate solutions to real situations.
- CE9: Ability to understand different legal systems in a globalised context.

Learning outcomes (RA, by their acronym in Spanish):

- RA1: Understanding of the fundamental principles and methodology of comparative law.
- RA2: Knowledge and understanding of the main legal families of the world.
- RA3: Ability to interrelate and compare the rules and institutions of different legal systems.

The following table shows how the skills developed in the course match up with the intended learning outcomes:

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB3, CT8, CT4, CE2, CE7, CE9	RA1: Understanding of the fundamental principles and methodology of comparative law.
CB1, CB2, CT2, CT3, CE7, CE8	RA2: Knowledge and understanding of the main legal families of the world.
CB2, CB3, CT2, CT3, CT4, CT8, CE7, CE8, CE9	RA3: Ability to interrelate and compare the rules and institutions of different legal systems.

4. CONTENT

- Introduction to Comparative Law
- Classification of Legal Families of the World
- The Continental Legal Family
- The Common Law Legal Family (UK and USA)

- Legal Systems in Asia (China and Japan)
- Religious Legal Systems (Islam and Hinduism)

5. TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS

The types of teaching/learning methods are as follows:

- Lecture / Web conference
- Case studies
- Collaborative learning
- Problem-based learning

6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The types of learning activities, plus the amount of time spent on each activity, are as follows:

On-campus delivery mode:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	43 h
Asynchronous lectures	7 h
Legal problem-solving	30 h
Case studies	35 h
Writing reports and papers	18 h
Tutorials	10 h
Knowledge tests	2 h
TOTAL	150 h

Online Delivery Mode:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Reading of content	13 h
Legal problem-solving	30 h
Case studies	35 h
Oral presentation of work via online seminars	10 h
Online tutorials	10 h
Independent working	50 h
Knowledge tests	2 h
TOTAL	150 h

7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment systems, plus their weighting for the final grade for the subject area, are as follows:

On-campus delivery mode:

Assessment system	Weighting
Knowledge test	50%
Oral presentations	10%
Case study/problem scenario	20%
Reports and papers	20%

Online Delivery Mode:

Assessment system	Weighting
Knowledge test	50%
Oral presentations	10%
Case study/problem scenario	20%
Reports and papers	20%

On the Virtual Campus, when you open the subject area, you can see all the details of your assessment tasks, including deadlines and assessment procedures.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

The recommended bibliography is indicated below:

Spanish:

ALTAVA LAVALL, Manuel G. Lecciones de Derecho comparado. Castellón de la Plana: Publicacions de la Universitat Jaume I, 2003.

DAVID, René; SÁNCHEZ CASTAÑEDA, Alfredo; JAUFFRET-SPINOSI, Camille; DÁVILA, J.A.S.C. Los grandes sistemas jurídicos contemporáneos. México D.F.: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, 2010.

SANTOS ALISTE, Tomás J. Sistema de Common Law. Salamanca: Ratio Legis, 2013.

ZWEIGERT, Konrad y KÖTZ, Hein. Introducción al Derecho comparado. México D.F.: Oxford University Press, 2002 [trad. de la 3a Edn. en inglés, 1998].

French/English:

DAVID, René y JAUFFRET-SPINOSI, Camille. Les grands systèmes de droit contemporains. 11a Edn. Paris: Dalloz, 2007. DE CRUZ, Peter. Comparative Law in a Changing World. Abingdon: Routledge, 1999.

SIEMS, Mathias. Comparative Law. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. ZWEIGERT, Konrad y KÖTZ, Hein. Introduction to Comparative Law. 3a Edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.