Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	FORMACIÓN BÁSICA
Teaching period	1 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

The subject "Introduction to Law" aims to provide students with basic theoretical and practical knowledge of Law in general, and particularly in the field of Private Law. It also aims to provide students with the necessary elements for the proper interpretation of the legal system concerned, and contributes to the basic legal training of students taking the Degree in International Relations.

Its study provides an approach to the main legal institutions that regulate transnational personal and patrimonial legal-private relations, providing basic cross-disciplinary training for all degrees in the branch of Law and Social Sciences. Ultimately, the subject's learning aims to ensure that students will be able to identify, understand, and apply basic legal concepts, the dynamics of legal relations, as well as the most significant features of the main legal institutions, all of which will facilitate broader subsequent learning.

Upon completion of this subject, students will have acquired the necessary skills for implementing professional activities within the framework of international relations and the legal and individual rights protection systems, understanding the meaning and significance of legal entitlements and obligations, and legal actions and claims, as well as a general knowledge of the origin, evolution, and characteristics of legal systems and protocols for conduct and meetings that regulate interpersonal and institutional relations at the national and international levels. Finally, they will have acquired the skills to independently study and analyze the actors, relationships, and institutional frameworks of international society, as well as to identify the resources necessary for such analysis.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG02. Students must be able to apply acquired knowledge to professional work and posses the skills that can be demonstrated by means of reasoning and defence, as well as problem-solving.
CG03. Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data in order to make value judgements that include an analysis of the relevant political, legal, social, economic, scientific and ethical issues.
CG04. Students must be able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to others, be they specialised or not.
CE01. Students must acquire general knowledge on the source, development and nature of legal systems and protocols governing actions and meetings that regulate interpersonal and institutional relations in national and international scenarios.
CE08. Students must acquire the necessary skills to study and independently analyse the protagonists, relations and institutional framework of the International Society, as well as obtain the necessary resources for such an analysis.
CE18. Students must acquire their own skills to carry out professional activities within the framework of international relations and protection of rights.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

Unit 1. Law in general: definitions and characteristics. Natural law and positive law. Public and private law.

Unit 2. Legal areas and jurisdictions. The legal rule: definitions and characteristics.

Unit 3. Legal systems, traditions and sources of Law. Other alleged sources.

Unit 4. Application, interpretation, integration and enforcement of legal rules, with especial reference to those governing international relations. Public International Law and Private International Law.

Unit 5. Legal rights, personal entitlements, and individual rights. Legal actions and claims. Definitions. Elements. Classification. Exercise and limitations.

Unit 6. Legal personality: definitions and cathegories. The natural person. Subjects of Law and objects of Law with especial reference to those rules of International and Private Law concerned.

Unit 7. The legal person. General considerations. Company Law. Companies and corporations. Main legal forms.

Unit 8. Law of Obligations. Obligations: concept, sources and main types of obligations. Contractual and non-contractual liability. Tort Law. Especial reference to those rules of International and Private Law concerned.

Unit 9. Contract Law. The legal principle of freedom of contract. Power of Attorney (POA) and legal representatives. The contract: concept and basis. Main elements of a contract. Types of contracts. Void and voidable contracts. Concept and types of ineffectiveness of contracts with reference to rules of Private International Law.

Unit 10. Property Law. Rights in rem. Concept, requirements and classes, with especial reference to rules of Private International Law.

Unit 11. Family Law and Inheritance Law. Main institutions. Reference to rules of Private International Law applicable.

NOTE: The lecturers teaching this subject will be entitled to enhance or reduce the contents of this program according to the particular necessities and characteristics of students.

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Prácticas / Resolución de ejercicios	Case studies will be solved by the students, delivered through Aula Virtual and corrected in class.
Other activities	Public presentation in class of a legal topic
Other activities	Essay to be prepared during the semester and delivered before the final exam

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	40
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	16
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	4
Academic tutorials	18
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	0
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	50
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	30
Preparation for tests and/or exams	22
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 15	Explanatory lecture classes. This activity will be an on-site learning activity.
Tests and/or exams	Week 7 to Week 16	A mid-term and final written assessment on-site tests (short written questions and/or multiple-choice test) will be given during the course, which seek to test an understanding of the principles behind the materials being taught.
Practical sessions	Week 1 to Week 15	Throughout the quarter, different hands-on learning activities will be conducted as indicated and determined in advance by the lecturer. Such as individual/team exercises and class discussions and debates, and/or problem solving and case studies, and/or case brief, written assignment on a particular topic and/or its oral presentation and defense. These activities will be on-site learning activities.
Other activities	Week 1 to Week 15	Reading articles, papers, subjects and references on different international legal issues. These activities will be on-site learning activities.

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Academic tutorials	Week 1 to Week 15	Learning feedback during the course may be given in different forms: either oral or written, peer to peer, individual or in group tutorials. This activity will be,in principle, an on-site learning activity or, as the case may be, where appropriate, a distance learning activity, using the Virtual Campus e-learning platform, and/or other online collaboration tools like Microsoft Teams.

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VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

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The subject will be assessed according to the following criteria:

I. ORDINARY ASSESSMENT
a) Continuous Assessment
Completion of one or various different learning activities during the quarter. The students will be informed by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter of the type (e.g., in-class participation, exercises, case studies, assignments, oral presentations, mid-term exams, etc.), number and grade of these activities.
The weighting of the whole continuous assessment activities will be 40% of the final grade.
The lecturer will indicate at the beginning of the quarter those exceptional activities which due to its particular characteristics CANNOT BE RETAKEN/RESUBMITTED OR REASSESSED in the ordinary assessment period or as the case may be in the extraordinary assessment period.
b) Examination
A final exam covering the entire content of the subject syllabus will be given, to measure knowledge, skills and aptitudes of students. The students will be informed in advance by the lecturer of the specific format (e.g., multiple-choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.), and, where appropriate, of the possibility of having an exempting exam at the end of the quarter or as the case may be one or various mid-term exams during the lectures period.
The weighting of the whole examination activities will be 60% of the final grade.
The minimum mark to be obtained to pass the subject will be indicated in advance by the lecturer.
These activities CAN BE RETAKEN OR REASSESSED in the extraordinary assessment period.

II. EXTRAORDINARY ASSESSMENT
a) Continuous Assessment
As the case may be, the grade obtained in the continuous assessment activities during the quarter will be maintained in the extraordinary assessment period.
Grade weighting: 40% of the final grade.
b) Examination
An exam covering the entire content of the subject syllabus will be given at the official date established by the University. The students will be informed in advance by the lecturer of the specific format (e.g., multiple-choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.)
Grade weighting: 60% of the final grade.
The minimum mark to be obtained to pass the subject will be indicated in advance by the lecturer.

III. EARLY ASSESSMENT
According to Article 19.4 of the Regulations for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of the Rey Juan Carlos University, students may demand that one of the two annual assessment periods take place in September.
The assessment method will consist in the completion of an exam covering the entire content of the subject syllabus. The students will be informed in advance by the lecturer of the specific format (e.g., multiple-choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.)
The mark obtained in the exam will be the final grade of the subject.

In the different assessment periods, the mention "NO-SHOW " will be reserved only for students who have NOT TAKEN ANY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY during the appropriate assessment period, according to Article 14(6) of the Regulations for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of the Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

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Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
Beaumont, Paul & Holliday, Jayne (eds.): Guide to Global Private International Law, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2021
Calster, Geert van: European private international law, commercial litigation in the EU, 3rd ed., Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2021
Jaap, Hage, Waltermann, Antonia & Akkermans, Bram (Eds.): Introduction to Law, 2nd ed., Cham (CH), Springer, 2017
Gruberg, Martin: Introduction to Law, University Press of America, 2003
Consultation bibliography
Calvo Caravaca, Alfonso Luis & Carrascosa González, Javier (Eds.): European private international law, Granada, Comares, 2022

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	RAFAEL ALBERTO MARTÍN RIVERA
E-mail address	rafael.martin.rivera@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Privado
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Profesor/a Ayudante Doctor/a
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	1
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	2

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