

30501 - Theory of Law

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 30501 - Theory of Law

Faculty / School: 102 - Facultad de Derecho

Degree: 432 - Joint Law - Business Administration and Management Programme

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Basic Education

Module:

1. General information

This subject offers a theoretical and practical introduction to law in its different dimensions. In it you learn to use basic legal concepts and acquire notions and skills of normative analysis and methodology and legal argumentation. The subject also aims to provide students with a better understanding of the interrelationships between the legal system and its social environment, and the role of law and its main operators in today's societies. Taken as a whole, the proposed teaching and learning activities are intended to help students develop a conscious, reflective and critical attitude towards legal norms, institutions and ideologies.

These approaches and goals are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030: Goal 10: Reduction of inequalities; Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

2. Learning results

After taking the subject, the student should have learned to:

- identify the elements that make up the Law and distinguish it from other normative orders.
- explain the fundamental characteristics of legal science.
- explain and apply basic notions of legal sociology and functional analysis of law.
- compare (critically) the main conceptions of law.
- explain the ideal characteristics of a legal system (unity, completeness, coherence).
- identify and differentiate the main types of legal norms, and explain their structure and functions.
- analyze the validity of legal norms, as well as assess their effectiveness and legitimacy.
- describe the sources of Spanish law and explain and apply the principles of hierarchy of norms and competence.
- analyze the most important characteristics of legal language and its consequences when interpreting and applying the law to solve concrete cases.
- explain and apply basic notions of legal methodology (interpretation and argumentation).
- identify and apply the main interpretative rules and criteria in Spanish law, and consider the gender perspective in legal argumentation
- to build an argument on basic legal-philosophical problems.

3. Syllabus

- 1.- The concept of law.
- 2.- Law and society. Functions of the Law.
- 3.- Theory of the norm, of the legal system and of the legal decision.
- 4.- Notions of legal interpretation and argumentation

4. Academic activities

Theoretical classes (1.5 ECTS): lectures and systematization of knowledge by the teacher.

- Methodology: theoretical class.

Practical classes (1.0 ECTS): dynamic activities of teacher and students (resolution of practical cases, classroom or outside and seminars).

- Methodology: practical teaching based on text analysis, case studies, presentations and discussion.

Other training activities (3.5 ECTS): personal study of the student, tutorials, work and assessment activities

-Methodology: adapted to the type of activity (individualized or group tutorials, continuous assessment and theoretical-practical written tests, individualized direction of work).

5. Assessment system

The Regulation on Learning Assessment Standards establishes two possible assessment systems: a blended assessment system and an overall test system

In order to pass the subject by means of a mixed system, the student may obtain up to 30% of the final grade by attending to the theoretical and practical classes, taking tests, exercises and seminars that each teacher may propose during the term. The remaining grade will be obtained through an test consisting of a test part (50%) and another part of development questions (20%). It will be necessary to pass each of the parts in order to pass the subject.

In order to pass the subject by means of a global test, the performance of a practical exercise (30%) must be added to the test under the same conditions as in the mixed system (70% of the final grade). Likewise, it will be necessary to pass each part to pass the subject.

Each teacher will explain more precisely the criteria for passing the Mixed System and the examination modalities in the syllabus that will be distributed at the beginning of the term.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

10 - Reduction of Inequalities

16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions