
DEGREE: **DEGREE IN JOURNALISM**

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name: **INFORMATION LAW**

Course: **YEAR 2**

Semester: **1**

Type: Basic Formation

Compulsory

Optative

Credits (LRU / ECTS): 6

Curriculum incorporation in: 2010

DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the knowledge of the legal regulation regarding the information activity in Spain. To know the exercise of an essential right for the democratic development of society and the profession of journalist.

AIMS

GENERAL:

The transmission of basic knowledge about the constitutional legal framework which may warrant the Spanish state the exercise of freedom of communication in general, and freedom of information in particular, as well as of the specific jurisprudence relative to the exercise of the latter, referring in some cases to the compared laws and the European framework.

SPECIFIC:

This course aims at making the student body acquire the basic legal knowledge, necessary to develop the journalist profession. In this way, at the end of the semester, the student body will be able to:

- Understand, assimilate and critically analyse the set of rules relative to freedom of information and the specific position of the journalist.
- Understand and manage the regulations and the rest of legal texts which may have influence on Journalism.
- Understand and analyse legal decisions of the regular Courts and those of the Constitutional Court about communication freedoms.
- Know how to manage the requirements, conditions and limitations so that the development and transmission of the journalistic speech in any medium (text, audiovisual, photograph, hypertext...) may seem appropriate to the legal system.
- Know the indispensable elements so as to build its own defense in the event that a legal conflict takes place.

SKILLS

Generic/transversal skills:

- Knowledge of the economic, political, social and cultural environment which may prepare the individual for interacting with the society.

- Capacity and ability to assess a situation and appropriately identify a problem or communication need from the social sciences' point of view.
- Capacities and abilities to know how to apply the researches to the whole communication process.
- To develop the intellectual ability which may allow the student body to think about communication, both as professional practice and its role, importance, projection and consequences for individual, social, cultural and political fields.

Specific skills:

- Capacity to manage the legal sources (referring to the legal system, jurisprudence and doctrine) related to communication.
- Capacity to use the constitutional principles and values as a working tool when developing the communication tasks.
- Knowledge of the legal system relative to information and communication, which establishes the appropriate framework for the professional exercise.
- To distinguish between legal, ethical and deontological dimensions which may have much influence on both the professional practice, limitations of freedom of speech and information, and the ethical behaviour, which must lead the communicator's job, in accordance with the civil commitment deriving from the social communication as common good.
- The acquisition of a critical conscience on the analysis of the legal system and development of the argumentation dialectics in communication (skill number 17).

METHODOLOGY AND TEACHING TECHNIQUES

Face-to-face training activities

1. Theoretical, practical or theoretical-practical face-to-face lessons. Activity value: 50 up to 100%.
2. Face-to-face discussion lessons or other intervening lessons. Activity value: 0 up to 50%.
3. Lessons carried out by experts on the topics addressed in this course. Activity value: 0 up to 10%.

Non-attendance training activities:

4. Tasks or individual or collective practical tasks. Activity value: 0 up to 100%.
5. Other non-attendance activities. Activity value: 0 up to 50%.

COURSE CONTENT: TOPICS

CONTENT AREAS:

- Information rights in the constitutional framework.
- Freedom of information.
- Constitutional limitations regarding the freedom of information.
- Procedures to protect the freedom of information.
- The journalist's responsibility.
- The journalist's legal status.

ASSESSMENT

Final marks which recognise the acquisition of the minimal skills to pass this course will be given generally or partially.

1. Test which consists of a theoretical exam and a practical one. Both of them as a whole will mean a 0-100% of the final mark. The possibility of replacing this test with an oral test will only be possible

when there is a reason which hampers taking it in the written form, still keeping the same percentage.

2. Individual or collective theoretical and/or practical assessments, whose compulsory or optional nature relies on the professor's guideline. Students may get from 0 up to 100% of the global mark.
3. Attendance and/or interventions in class and/or tutorials will be taken into account according to the professor's guideline. (0-20%)
1. Interventions in activities through telematics: blogs, forums, online platforms, webs, social media, etc. (0-20%).
2. The professor may apply other grading systems depending on their guideline. In that case, those must be reflected on the teaching syllabus, clearly specified with their own percentage on the final mark.