

LA270 Legal English

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

Semester 2 / 2019

Course Description

This course is designed to help students develop their legal English proficiency including listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in order to enable them to comprehend, analyze and criticize legal texts, judgements and other legal documents in English and to discuss legal issues and principles.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Outcome 1: communicate more effectively about legal issues, texts, judgements and principles;
- Outcome 2: listen critically during discussions of legal topics, ask questions, share opinions, interject to clarify their statements or check their understanding of an issue;
- Outcome 3: read legal judgements and write and present a case summary about a judgement;
- Outcome 4: write question and answer sheets about a law in plain English for a public audience;
- Outcome 5: converse with others about legal principles using idiomatic expressions, and;
- Outcome 6: research legal topics independently using online legal English resources.

Course Materials

Course materials can be download by joining [Google Classroom](#). Enter class code **al2t2oj**

Evaluation

Course points are awarded using the following methods:

Evaluation Method	Details	Points
Midterm Examination	Multiple-choice and short-answer questions	30
Final Examination	Multiple-choice and short-answer questions	30
Assignments	Presentation (15 pts.) and written assignment (15 pts.)	30
Participation	Qualitative assessment	10
TOTAL		100

S= Satisfactory, U = Unsatisfactory

Students who get 60 points or above will receive a letter grade of “S” (Satisfactory) and pass the course.

Students who get 59 points or below or miss three classes will receive a letter grade of

“U” (Unsatisfactory), and they will need to take the course again.

Letter Grade	Points
S = Satisfactory	60 points <i>or above</i>
U = Unsatisfactory	59 points <i>or below</i>
U = Unsatisfactory	Absent three classes

Examinations | 60 points

1. Midterm examination is based on course content covered during **weeks 1-7**.
2. Final examination is based on course content covered during **weeks 8-15**.

Assignment One (Case Summary Presentation) 15 points

Students will research a legal judgement, complete a one-page *case summary* and define any legal terms they use in the summary. A case summary of a judgement includes the name of a case, the legal issue (question of law), key facts, the decision, and a relevant quotation from the judge(s). Students will give a **presentation of their case summary** during seminars 5-11 (weeks 8-14).

- **Length of presentation** 3 minutes followed by 5-7 minutes for questions and answers
- **Notes** can be used during presentations and a handout provided to other students
- **Visual aids** should not be used during presentations.

Evaluation Criteria	Sufficient	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Voice and body Language	1	2	3	4	5
Q&A session	1	2	3	4	5
Points					___ / 15

Assignment Two (Legal Fact Sheet) 15 points

Using plain language, students will write a one-page question and answer (Q&A) sheet about a law in plain English for a public audience. This assignment is due the last week of class (i.e. week 15).

Participation 10 points

Instructors may base your participation score on one or more of the following factors:

- You asked questions during classes and seminars and after student presentations.
- You expressed your opinions during classes and seminars.
- You asked the instructor or other students to clarify topics under discussion.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Copying another person's academic work and presenting their work as your own is a serious academic offense. When preparing assignments and presentations, students must give credit to the original authors of written works. This should include the author's name, name of publication or article, date of publication, and location of publication. Ask your instructor for guidance if you are uncertain about plagiarism.

Dates to Remember

Semester Starts	13 January 2020
Add/Drop Period	22-26 January 2020
Midterm Week	1- 8 March 2020
Midterm Examination	To be determined
Drop W Period	16 March – 20 April 2020
Final Examination	13 May 2020 Time 13:00 - 16:00
Semester Ends	9 May 2020

Official Holidays (classes cancelled)

Monday, 10 February 2020

Songkran: 11-17 April 2020

Monday, 4 May 2020

Wednesday, 6 May 2020 (Please schedule a make-up class for affected sections.)

Instructors, Times and Venues

Section	Day	Time	Room	Campus	Instructor
450001	Tue	13.30 - 16.30	SC 2027	Rangsit	A. Pierre Beaulne, Course Coordinator
450002	Tue	13.30 - 16.30	SC 2028	Rangsit	A. Sean M. Ryan (Coordinator, MT exam)
450003	Tue	13.30 - 16.30	SC 2031	Rangsit	A. Steven B. Smith (Coordinator, Final Exam)
450004	Tue	13.30 - 16.30	SC 2032	Rangsit	A. Lori Conover
450005	Tue	13.30 - 16.30	SC 2033	Rangsit	A. Jon de Rennes
450006	Tue	13.30 - 16.30	SC 4034	Rangsit	A. Jonathan W. Jones
780001	Wed	09.30 - 12.30	SC 2027	Rangsit	A. Pierre Beaulne
780002	Wed	09.30 - 12.30	SC 2028	Rangsit	A. Sean M. Ryan
780003	Wed	09.30 - 12.30	SC 2031	Rangsit	A. Steven B. Smith
780004	Wed	09.30 - 12.30	SC 2032	Rangsit	A. Lori Conover
780005	Wed	09.30 - 12.30	SC 2033	Rangsit	A. Jon de Rennes
780006	Wed	09.30 - 12.30	SC 2034	Rangsit	A. Jonathan W. Jones
700001	Thu	09.30 - 12.30	1204	Lampang	A. Chongrak Sitthirak
700002	Thu	09.30 - 12.30	1316	Lampang	A. Warangkana Pongsatornpiat
700003	Fri	09.30 - 12.30	1204	Lampang	A. Warangkana Pongsatornpiat
700004	Fri	09.30 - 12.30	1316	Lampang	A. Titirut Runglaew

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK		TOPICS
01	13-17 JAN	Getting started (course overview)
02	20-24 JAN	Rules for everyone
03	27-31 JAN	The thin blue line Seminar 1 (1 hour)
04	3-7 FEB	Lawyering up Seminar 2
05	10-14 FEB	Sitting in judgement Seminar 3
06	17-21 FEB	Presenting a case summary Seminar 4
07	24-28 FEB	Review class for mid-term
	1-8 MAR	Mid-Term Examination (Date and time TDB) 30 points
08	9-13 MAR	Plain English for lawyers Seminar 5
09	16-20 MAR	All in the family Seminar 6
10	23-27 MAR	Crime and punishment Seminar 7
11	30 MAR- 3 APR	Sweetheart contracts Seminar 8
12	6-10 APR	International law Seminar 9
13	20-24 APR	Intellectual property rights Seminar 10
14	27 APR - 1 MAY	The rule of law Seminar 11
15	4-8 MAY *	Review class for final exam (Assignment two: 15 points)
	13 MAY	Final Examination (13 May 2020 Time 13:00 - 16:00) 30 points

Seminars 1-4: See course textbook for suggested topics.

Seminars 5-11: Presentations of case summaries (Assignment One: **15 points**)

* **Week 15:** **Wednesday, 6 May 2020** (Please schedule a make-up class.)