

University of Houston-Law Center
IL 5209 Legal Spanish for Spanish Speakers CRN 24851
Syllabus Spring 2023
Asynchronous through Blackboard

Instructor: Dr. Rey Romero
Email: romerore@uhd.edu

Office Hours: Over zoom by appointment
Voicemail: 713-226-5549

1. Course description: An advanced-language course for students already fluent in Spanish. Students will strengthen their communicative language skills such as speaking, writing, interpreting, and vocabulary building within the context of several areas of legal practice, including but not limited to criminal law, civil law, and immigration law.

2. Textbooks: McGraw Hill’s Spanish and English Legal Dictionary (ISBN: 9780071415293)
 Valeria Luiselli, *Los niños perdidos* (ISBN: 978-84-16358-83-0)

3. Learning objectives:

- Students will evaluate, explain, compose, and translate legal documents in Spanish, with Spanish legal terminology.
- Students will implement linguistic tools to research legal terminology in Spanish.
- Students will deliver clear comprehensible oral presentations in academic Spanish, using PowerPoint, on a legal case or other topic.
- Students will identify and research differences in legal proceedings in Latin America and Spain.

4. Course evaluation:

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|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Exams (2) | 20% | Written exercises (3) | 30% |
| Homework (10 assignments) | 15% | Vocabulary Quizzes (5) | 20% |
| PowerPoint Presentation | 5% | Final Project | 10% |

| Semanas | Módulo | Lección | Tarea |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Semana 1: 17-20 de enero | Módulo 1A: Términos y tecnicismos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Términos y tecnicismos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foro 1 |
| Semana 2: 23-27 de enero | Módulo 1B: Términos y tecnicismos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Términos y tecnicismos jurídicos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actividad de glosario • Pruebita 1 |
| Semana 3: 30 de enero – 3 de febrero | Módulo 2A: Traducción inglés – español | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traducción (formatos) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carta al cliente |
| Semana 4: 6-10 de febrero | Módulo 2B: Traducción inglés – español | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traducción (equivalencia jurídica y tipos de derecho) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actividad de traducción |
| Semana 5: 13-17 de febrero | Módulo 3A: El derecho penal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducción al derecho penal • Comparecencia inicial • Lectura de cargos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pruebita 2 • Foro 3 (estadísticas de delitos) |

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Semana 6: 20-24 de febrero | Módulo 3B: El derecho penal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listas de vocabulario ABC Market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pruebita 3 ¿Qué sé yo? – Derecho penal |
| Semana 7: 27 de febrero – 3 de marzo | Módulo 3C: El derecho penal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> La traducción de títulos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diario 1 (<i>The Confessions</i>) |
| Semana 8: 6-10 de marzo | Examen parcial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examen parcial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examen parcial |
| 13-18 de marzo | <i>Vacaciones de Primavera</i> | | |
| Semana 9: 20-24 de marzo | Módulo 4A: El derecho civil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducción al derecho civil Listas de vocabulario | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pruebita 4 |
| Semana 10: 27-31º de marzo | Módulo 4B: El derecho civil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicación del proyecto final La traducción de actas La traducción oral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actividad de traducción oral ¿Qué sé yo? – Derecho civil |
| Semana 11: 3-7 de abril | Módulo 5A: El derecho migratorio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducción al derecho migratorio Listas de vocabulario La traducción de un caso migratorio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foro 4 Pruebita 5 |
| Semana 12: 10-14 de abril | Módulo 5B: El derecho migratorio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> La trata de personas Los textos paralelos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diario 2 (<i>Los niños perdidos</i>) ¿Qué sé yo? – Derecho migratorio |
| Semana 13: 17-21 de abril | Módulo 6: El derecho lingüístico | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducción al derecho lingüístico en Estados Unidos Introducción a la interpretación jurídica | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foro 5 |
| Semana 14: 24-28 de abril | Presentación del proyecto final | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentaciones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colgar el proyecto final (presentación) Entregar el proyecto final (traducción) Comentar sobre el proyecto final de dos compañeros) |
| 29 de abril – 1 de mayo | <i>Días de estudio (Reading Days)</i> | | |
| 6 de mayo | Examen final | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examen final | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examen final |

Required notices:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html .

Sexual Misconduct Policy

The University is committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, there is a confidential reporting process available to you. For more information, please refer to the University system’s Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08, available here:

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/uhs-policies/sams/01-general-information/index.php>

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/docs/sam/01/1d7.pdf> (antidiscrimination)

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/docs/sam/01/1d8.pdf> (sexual misconduct)

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy reach to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not a confidential resource.

Names and Pronouns

Chosen names and preferred pronouns (including non-binary ones such as they/them/their) must be respected in my classroom. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun, or if you have concerns about how I or your classmates address you.

Syllabus Changes (required for all courses)

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (*specify how students will be notified of changes*).

Other classroom policies:

a. You must attend at least 80% of the scheduled classes (12 out of 15) or you may be subject to be dropped from class. The professor will take roll during the first five to ten minutes of class. **For**

online asynchronous courses, you must complete all assigned worked before the mandatory deadlines.

b. Please note that this course is subject to mandatory average and their curve. This may or may not affect your calculations of the total grade. If you have any questions regarding your current grade, do not hesitate to contact your professor or look at your current grade on Blackboard.

c. All written homework assignments must be typed. Include your name, date, class, and assignment name. Document must be double-spaced, Times New Roman font, and size 12, unless otherwise specified.

d. Final Exam. Final exam will take place during its designated time period.

c. Additional classroom and UHLC policies are found in the student handbook. Please visit <http://www.law.uh.edu/student/> in the section “student life” and click on student handbook pdf.

A friendly note from the professor:

Language learning takes a lot of practice, time, and effort. Although our class is only once a week, I hope that you do not limit your Spanish practice to only two hours a week. Use your time wisely: Do your homework, go over the new vocabulary lists, make flashcards, do the additional exercises, practice with Spanish-speaking friends, review the previous week’s material. *¡La práctica hace al maestro!*