

Course title	Introduction to Legal English 1				
Teacher(s)	Itamochi Kengo			開講区分	単位数
				1st semester	2.0
Numbering Code	J2ML600	Day・Period	Thurs2	Timetable Slot Code	1J382

Lesson topic

This course will be at an introductory level for those wishing to develop the four (speaking, listening, writing and reading) English language skills in relation to legal subjects. The language covered will include both academic language (used by those studying law) and professional language (used by lawyers).

Lesson target

By the end of the course, students will have improved their ability to:

1. listen to and understand both native and non-native speakers' of English talking about legal matters in situations such as meetings, discussions and lectures;
2. speak about legal matters in a variety of situations such as advising, negotiating, summarising, explaining complicated legal issues to both lawyers and non-lawyers;
3. read and understand legal texts such as contracts, statutes and case reports, law journal articles, law text books and legal correspondence;
4. write case notes and letters/emails of advice.

Syllabus and plan

The lectures are expected to be conducted with students attending in the classroom. However, it is also possible that some students, who are outside Japan and are awaiting a visa to enter Japan, will attend on-line, as well as that the university and/or the faculty decide(s) to make all or a part of the classes on-line due to the epidemic etc.

There will be a total of 15 lectures. The following gives an indication of the topics to be covered by the lectures. Numbers of lectures for each topic and the order might be changed.

Lectures 1-3: Introduction & studying law and law subjects

Lectures 3-7: Contract law

Lectures 7-10: Contract dispute case study

Lectures 11-13: Tort law (civil wrongs)

Lectures 13-15: Company law

Evaluation method

Students will be assessed as follows:

50%: level of active performance during lectures

30%: written homework

20%: final exam

Evaluation baseline

50%: by the level of their active participation and performance during lectures: this will include the extent of attendance of classes and will be especially focused on understanding (listening) and expression (speaking) ability during class activities.

30%: by written homework: there will be three written assignments set during the term, each carrying 10% and covering grammar, technical vocabulary, structure and format.

20%: final exam which will cover all the material covered during the term.

Notice (include info. on related class)

Participating in this course will help develop appropriate skills for students who are considering studying at a foreign university under an exchange programme. It will also be useful for an international internship.

Exchange students can attend this course.

This course is recommended for students who wish to progress to the Advanced Legal English course.

Review and preparation

Students will be required to do some reading of the textbook and preparation for speaking activities in preparation for lectures and to do written and review work as homework after lectures.
Kobe University requires 45 hours of study from students to award one credit, including both in-class instructions as well as study outside classes.
Students are required to prepare for each class and complete the review after each class, depending on the respective class goals.

Office hour · Contact information

Contact can be made by email. Contact details will be given in the first lecture.
There will also be time to ask questions at the beginning or end of classes.

Message for student

In order to talk about legal matters, it is not sufficient merely to know the correct legal terms and so the course will cover language for discussing, comparing, suggesting etc. This functional language will be useful for other business and social situations. Students should consider the lectures as an opportunity to practise expressing their opinions in new ways and not be afraid of making mistakes. Students must bring their laptop to every class.

Improvements in Teaching

Text

Information about the textbook will be given at the first lecture. It will not be necessary to have the textbook for the first lecture.

Reference Material

Please see above.

Classroom Language

English
The lectures will be conducted in English.

Keywords

International legal English communication Laptop Exchange student (Special auditing student) Term Paper