



I. DATA OF THE COURSE

Data of the course	
Name	Introduction to Civil Law
Diplome	Legal Studies in Spain
ECTS	3
Coordinator	Prof.

Professors	
Professor	Tomás Manfredi Barbeito

The aim of this course is to bring the student closer to civil law system compared to common law by presenting some basic notions between both legal systems.

II. CONTENT

1. History of the two legal traditions.
2. Different branches in the Civil Law tradition.
3. Rule of Law.
4. The process of codification. The importance of Civil Code.
5. The Sources of Law.
6. The three powers in the Civil Law tradition.
7. The autonomy of the will in the Civil Law tradition.

III. RESOURCES

Bibliography

Bersier, N., Bezemek, C. & Shauer, F. (2022). *Common Law-Civil Law: The Great Divide?* New York: Springer.

Lundmark, T. (2012). *Charting the Divide Between Common and Civil Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Merryman, J.H. & Pérez-Perdomo, R. (2018). *The Civil Law Tradition. An Introduction to the Legal Systems of Europe and Latin America*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Methodology: activities.

- **Lectures:** The professor presents systematically the contents indicated above. The approach will be a combination of a theoretical, dogmatical method and a practical one. Some class notes will be provided to students before the corresponding lecture. Specific everyday examples will be offered to illustrate the topics problems, and students will be invited to give their own opinions and insights on the matter, including explanations regarding their own jurisdiction. Active participation is constantly promoted.. The idea is to provide students some basic tools, so they get acquainted with civil law system.

- **Commentary on legal rulings or academic papers:** The professor may pick judgments or legal journal articles to illustrate some of the topics covered in the course. The students will be invited to explore their content and discuss them in class.

- **Dissertation:** 30% of the final grade will depend on the assessment of a short dissertation (3,500 to 5,000 words) the student must write. Students will have to pick one of the issues dealt with and present the similarities and differences of the civil legal system with regard to their own country's one.

V. EVALUATION

Activities	Indicators	% in the evaluation
Exam – Multiple choice test	A test consisting of multiple-choice questions will allow to determine whether the student is familiarized with the main features of civil law tradition explored in the course.	70%
Drafting a dissertation	Students must draft a short dissertation (3,500 to 5,000 words) comparing the civil regime with the one of their own forum. Originality, clarity, quality of the presentation, and the proper use of bibliography and/or legal rulings to illustrate the points raised, will be the main factors considered.	30%