



## I. DATA OF THE COURSE

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

Professors	
Professor	Ricardo Pazos Departamento de Derecho Privado rpazos@icade.comillas.edu

The aim of this course is to bring the student closer to Spanish civil law by presenting some basic notions of the several areas encompassed in this legal branch. The exploration of specific, noteworthy aspects of Spanish civil law allows the student to get a panorama view, and this first approach will make it possible for them to successfully go deeper afterwards.

The lessons could be grouped in five categories. The first one concerns the main features of the Spanish legal order in general, and Civil Law in particular. The second deals with persons, both natural and legal, focusing mostly on the former. In this regard, special attention is paid to two issues, namely the recent reform on people with disabilities and the legal pluralism that characterizes Spain – aspect that comes out already in the first set of topics. The third group touches the Civil Law sub-branch known as law of obligations, covering obligations, contracts, and civil liability for harm caused to another

person. The fourth category explores Property Law and rights *in rem*. Lastly, the fifth set turns to Family and Inheritance Law.

## II. CONTENT

1. The fundamentals of Spain's legal order.
2. The impact of legal pluralism in civil matters.
3. Sources of law.
4. Natural and legal persons. The Civil Registry.
5. Exercise of legal capacity of people with disabilities.
6. Nationality and civil citizenship ( <i>vecindad civil</i> ).
7. Obligations.
8. Contracts.
9. Civil Liability.
10. Property Law and Rights in Rem.
11. Family Law.
12. Inheritance law.

## III. RESOURCES

<b>Bibliography</b>
López Sako, M. J. (dir. & coord.) (2016). <i>Introducción Bilingüe al Derecho Español Para Estudiantes Erasmus. Bilingual Introduction to Spanish law for Erasmus Students</i> . Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch.
Bercovitz Rodríguez-Cano, R., Valladares Rascón, E., & Díez García, H. (2021). <i>Manual de Introducción al Derecho. Introducción al Derecho Civil Patrimonial</i> . Madrid: Bercal.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

<b>Methodology: activities.</b>
- <b>Lectures:</b> The professor presents systematically the contents indicated above under twelve different headings. The approach will be a combination of a theoretical, dogmatical method and a practical one.

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 the legal system they are used to. Active participation is constantly promoted. Due to the nature of the course and the number of ECTS assigned, lectures will necessarily remain on a general level, even if particular sub-topics are to be paid attention. The idea is to provide students some basic tools, so they get acquainted with Spanish civil law.

- **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 (9 to 12 pages) the student must write. After the first six lessons of the course, the student will have to pick one of the issues covered and present the similarities and differences of the Spanish 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 Spanish civil law explored in the course.	70%
Drafting a dissertation	Students must draft a short dissertation (9 to 12 pages) on one of the issues covered in the first six lessons of the course, comparing the Spanish 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%