Language of Instruction: English

Professor: Alfons Aragoneses

Professor’s Contact and Office Hours: Office 40.126 upon appointment.

Course Contact Hours: 30 hours

Recommended Credit: 4 ECTS credits

Weeks: 2

Course Prerequisites: Knowledge of English. Basic knowledge of history

Language Requirements: Knowledge of English.

Time modules: 2-1-B

Course Description:

Our legal systems today have been influenced by dictatorships, imperialism and mass atrocities in general in the 20th Century. Law is progressively regulating the interpretation of some of these past events. The course is aimed at analyzing the influences between Law, society and memory. It studies the legal construction of dictatorships and states of exception. It also explains how our contemporary legal systems have dealt with the past. The perspective is global and interdisciplinary.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, the student:

· Will have acquired survey knowledge of global legal history of the 20th century.

· Will have a critical and interdisciplinary approach to transitional justice.

· Will be versed in the mutual influences between Law, memory and collective identity.

Course Workload

The course is divided into lectures, discussions, and field studies. Students should be prepared to read between 50 to 100 pages per week.
Methods of Instruction:

The course includes both lectures and field studies. During field studies, students are expected to take notes and treat field studies as a normal lecture class. The course includes at least one field activity in Barcelona.

Method of Assessment

Class Participation: 10 percent
Assignments/Seminars: 20 percent
Midterm Exam: 30 percent
Final Exam: 40 percent

Absence Policy

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. The impact of absences on the final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
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The BISS attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency, etc.) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the UPF Summer School.

Classroom Norms:

Students are expected to be punctual.

Course Contents and bibliography:
Lesson 1. Presentation. Law and memory.  
Introduction. Syllabus.

Between the dictator and me. Spain 2005.


Imperialist Law and the rush for Africa. Regulation of Land property and labour in the African colonies.


Lesson 3. Law and State between the two World Wars.

The end of classical liberalism and the emergence of new legal subjects and new social rights in Europe.

Mexican Constitution (1917); German Constitution (1919); Austrian Constitution (1920); Spanish Constitution (1931).

Lesson 4. Law and State in Europe between the two World Wars (II).

Law and Totalitarianism.


Lesson 5. Spanish Civil Law and the construction of Law and State under Franco


Visit to an Air Shelter in Barcelona to study the bombing of the city during the Spanish Civil War.

Lesson 6. The concentration camp: the Nomos of the Modern?

The concentration camp and the state of exception as global phenomena. Concentration camps in Europe 1939-1945.


If resources are available, field-trip to Rivesaltes concentration camp.
Lesson 7. From Nuremberg to Frankfurt: the Universalization of Criminal Justice and the concept of Crimes against Humanity.

*The Trials of Nuremberg and Dachau and the creation of an international conscience on Human Rights. The Trial of Eichmann and the rise of a global conscience against impunity. The Trials of Frankfurt. The ICC. Transitional Justice and collective identity.*


Lesson 8. Latin-America in the 20th Century: between modernization and alternative models


Lesson 9: Crimes against humanity and transitional justice in Africa. The Rwandan case

Postcolonial legal theory. *Global approach to transitional justice*

Rwanda: reconciliation, a must-. Spain 2012.

Lesson 10. Multinormativity in the 20th Century

*Postcolonial legal theory. Global approach to transitional justice*


Lesson 11. Spain: transition and remembrance of Francoism in Spanish Law


Lesson 12: Legal memory: the (legal) invention of the past.


Last revised, January 2018