

Course Title: **Terminología Especializada en Jurídica**  
Program and Track: **Interpretación y Traducción: 7° Cuatrimestre**  
Course ID: **IT0732**  
Cohort ID: **7A**

### **Description**

This course uses a constructivist approach for advanced English language learning with an emphasis on terminology. The specialized jargon, terminology and acronyms that are used in law will be examined and framed through the context of legal systems, legal research, and selected legal documents. Foundational concepts for legal systems will be reviewed along with the form and function of legal language. Selected topics in US and Mexican civil law and current international law will be introduced, and the analysis and evaluation of legal documents, legal texts, and open-access journal articles and reviews will provide the context for vocabulary building and English language acquisition. Selected English grammatical structures and writing styles will be reviewed, and translations between English and Spanish will be routine.

The professional translational mapping tools developed in this course will be specific to Spanish and English translations, although such tools and methodologies can readily be extended to the translation of other languages. Students will receive credit for any work completed through the *Coursera* on-line learning platform.

Major elements of the course will include:

- I. History, Language and the Law
- II. Elements of Academic Work
- III. Foundations of Legal Research and Legal Systems
- IV. The Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación (SCJN)
- V. Analysis, Evaluation, and Translation of Selected Legal Documents in Civil Law
- VI. Analysis, Evaluation, and Translation from the Literature of International Law
- VII. Vocabulary Building

### **Scope and General Sequence**

#### *I. History, Language and the Law*

1. History and the Role of Law
2. Structure and Functions of Legal Language
3. Discipline-Specific Jargon: Good and Bad

#### *II. Elements of Academic Work*

1. The Elements of Style in Professional Writing
  - 1.1 Marron's Modified APA Style
  - 1.2 Strunk and White's, *Elements of Style*
2. Review of Essential English Grammar
  - 2.1 Murphy's, *English Grammar in Use*
3. Homework as a Deliverable

*III. Foundations of Legal Systems and Legal Research*

1. History and Development of Legal Systems
  - 1.1 The Legal System in Mexico
  - 1.2 The Legal System in the US
2. Legal Research
  - 2.1 Legal Research as a Type of Academic Research
  - 2.2 Online Resources
  - 2.3 Reference Texts

*IV. The Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación (SCJN)*

1. History, Structure, and Function
2. Jurisprudencia and Tesis Aisladas

*V. Analysis, Evaluation, and Translation of Selected Legal Documents in Civil Law*

1. Legal Proceeding and Precedent Documents
  - 1.1 Proceedings
  - 1.2 Expert Testimony
  - 1.3 Notaries
2. Contracts
  - 2.1 History and Relevance
  - 2.2 Código Civil Federal, Artículos 1792 al 1859

*VI. Analysis, Evaluation, and Translation from the Literature of International Law*

1. International Journal of Law in Context (Cambridge)
2. Journal of Law and Society (Cornell)
3. International Journal of Law

*VII. Vocabulary Building*

**Expectations**

Students will be expected to:

- Attend all classes on time
- Be prepared to take notes and access materials on-line
- Participate in all class activities, including discussions and presentations
- Complete all assignments and exams

**Exit Criteria**

Upon the successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Analyze and evaluate the role of history and language in the development of law
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of legal systems including those of Mexico and the US
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct basic legal research using online resources and professional texts
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the history and function of the SCJN
- Analyze, evaluate, and translate standard legal documents found in civil law

- Analyze, evaluate, and translate selected journal articles in contemporary international law
- Design, develop, and implement personal dictionaries for the translation of specialized terminology in legal documents
- Produce professional-quality deliverables

**Interim Evaluations (Partials)**

Daily Work and Participation	10%
Homework	60 %
Interim Exam	30%

**Final Grade**

1P	25 %
2P	25 %
3P	25 %
Final Exam	25 %