

MSWL Legal Aspects
Master on Libre Software
URJC - GSyC/Libresoft
<http://master.libresoft.es>

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Abstract

Course syllabus and learning program for the course “Legal Aspects”, of the Master on Free Software of the Rey Juan Carlos University (Madrid, Spain).

Supporting materials and references can be found on the Moodle page for this course.¹

[This is an evolving document, until the course is finished and graded]

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¹<http://docencia.etsit.urjc.es/moodle/course/view.php?id=121>

1 Administrivia

Credits: 3 ECTS

Schedule:

Oct. 19th, Fri, 17h-21h: Introduction to the general concepts of IP

Oct. 26th, Fri, 17h-21h: Copyright on Software

Nov. 2nd, Fri, 17h-21h: Free Software Licenses

Nov. 9th, Fri, 17h-21h: Free licenses for other intellectual works

Nov. 16th, Fri, 17h-21h: Case studies, practical issues

Lecturers:

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2 Grading

This section details the criteria for grading the course, the deadlines for the different activities, and the submission details for the activities that require them.

2.1 Evaluation criteria

Each activity contributing to the grading of the course has its own evaluation criteria, as described below. Each of these activities has a minimum and maximum grading. If the minimum grading is 0, the activity is *optional*. Otherwise, the activity is *mandatory*, and has to be graded at least with the minimum to pass the course. Each activity has also a description, and when possible, some general grading criteria. In any case, the final grade for the course will also depend on the continuous observation of the instructors on the outcomes and progress of students.

Students should ask instructors about any detail which may not be clear to them, either about the general grading plan, or about specific aspects of the activities. As a general rule, evaluation will have into account how the activity and its results show that the student has come close to the competences, knowledge and skills expected for the course.

The student can consider that the next table will be used as a guideline for assigning marks:

- **0-49: Fail** (“Suspendo”, SS)
- **50-69: Pass** (“Aprobado”, AP)
- **70-89: Good** (“Notable”, NT)
- **90-100: Excellent** (“Sobresaliente”, SB)

2.2 Graded activities

- **Exercises** (mandatory, answered in Moodle forum)

Minimum: 10 points, maximum: 35 points.

Exercises proposed and answered in the forum of the course.

- **Blog entries** (optional)

Minimum: 0 points, maximum: 20 points

Blog entries specifically related to the course, and marked as such. The tag used for that is mswl-legal.

- **Specific work about a Legal Aspect** (mandatory)

Minimum: 10 points, maximum: 45 points

Specific written (7-10 pages) report about a relevant legal aspect of free/open source software, related to the topics dealt with in this course. It can also be accompanied by a presentation (recorded in video, in this case), a video, a podcast, etc. It is important to detail all the references, and to heavily root the report on data and/or specific works publicly available.

Some ideas:

- IP (copyrights, patents) lawsuits against FLOSS
- Infringement and violations of FLOSS licenses.
- How to affect the patent system to libre software.
- How to affect SaaS (software on demand, cloud computing, etc.) to FLOSS licensing.
- Analysis of a specific FLOSS license or comparison between FLOSS licenses.
- Choosing the right license: considering business models, product architecture, IP ownership, license compatibility issues, relicensing, etc.
- Intellectual Property debate: Defense and Opposition to patents and copyrights.
- Thinking about derivative works: linking and licensing, daily life with FLOSS licenses, etc.
- Etcetera.

- **Other activities** (optional)

Minimum: 0 points, maximum: 15 points

These activities have to be agreed with the instructors.

2.3 Submission deadlines

All activities to be graded in January must be completed and submitted by **November 28th 2012**.

2.4 Submission details

Please, consider the details below for submitting the different activities for evaluation (for those not specified in this list, nothing special is needed for submission).

[These details could change before the actual submission dates, please check for updates before submitting.]

- As a summary of all the activities, a “Summary of activities for evaluation” should be sent. This summary should be uploaded to the corresponding resource in the Moodle site for this course, and should include the following data:
 - **Name:** Full name of the student (as “family name”, “given name”)

- **Blog entries:** Url of the blog entries for this course (HTML, not RSS version).
- **List of other activities:** If any, list of other activities submitted for evaluation (those that would fit in the “other activities” item in the “Evaluation criteria”. The results of those activities should be uploaded to the “other activities” resource in the Moodle site for this course, when appropriate. In some specific cases (such as streaming videos) it will be enough to include in this list the url to the external site where the result is hosted.