



# Course Syllabus for LA 270 Legal English

Term 2/2023

LLB. Programme (Thai-Language Programme)

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

---

## 1. INSTRUCTORS

- Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn (Email: pinainakorn@hotmail.com)
- Associate Professor Dr. Nartnirun Junngam
- Associate Professor Dr. Jaruprapa Rakpong

## 2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to provide students with proper understanding of legal English. Students will, **first**, be grounded with characteristics of legal English in order to derive full insights into its distinction from ordinary English and also into its peculiarity to the legal profession. This will, **next**, be followed by a seminal session dedicated to practising writing legal English, whereby students will be given demonstration of how to write legally related texts, composition of which requires skillful legal phraseology, with certain legalese (where necessary). **Further**, fundamental legal terminologies and expressions as used in the legal scholarship and profession in different areas of law, with emphasis on legal terminologies and expressions in contract law and the law of torts, will be introduced, with a view to building up students' proper understanding of how to use them in proper legal contexts. In this connection, exercises on the use of legal terminologies will be given as an efficient means to assess students' correct comprehension. **Moreover**, this course provides a practical forum for giving students an insightful account of academic writing in the legal profession. **Finally**, students will be trained to undertake analytical reading whereby skimming and scanning techniques will be shown for the purpose of reading legal writings including judicial decisions.

## 3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To bring to light distinct characteristics of legal English and legal writing;
- To provide a practical forum for practising legal writing;
- To introduce fundamental legal terminologies and expressions as used in different areas of law, with emphasis on legal terminologies and expressions in contract law and the law of torts;
- To give students, through well-designed exercises, practice on the usage of legal terminologies and expressions;

- To provide insightful guidance on how to produce good and impressive academic writings in the legal profession;
- To take students through skimming and scanning techniques in the process of reading legal writings

#### 4. CLASS TIME AND VENUE

Date: Mondays

Time: 13.30 – 16.30 hrs.

Venue: To be announced

#### 5. CLASS MATERIALS

##### A. For lectures to be delivered by Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn

###### Main Texts

- Nanakorn, Pinai. *English in the Legal Profession*. Bangkok: Winyoochon, 2023.  
(พินัย ฅ นคร. *ภาษาอังกฤษในวิชาชีพกฎหมาย*. กรุงเทพฯ: สำนักพิมพ์วิญญูชน, ๒๕๖๖.)
- Nanakorn, Pinai. *English Translation of the Civil and Commercial Code, Book I and Book II (With the Official Thai Text)*. Bangkok: Winyoochon, 2021.  
(พินัย ฅ นคร. *คำแปลภาษาอังกฤษของประมวลกฎหมายแพ่งและพาณิชย์ของไทย บรรพ ๑ และ บรรพ ๒ (พร้อมบทบัญญัติภาษาไทยที่เป็นทางการ)*. กรุงเทพฯ: สำนักพิมพ์วิญญูชน, ๒๕๖๔.)
- Nanakorn, Pinai. *English Translation of the Civil and Commercial Code, Book III (With the Official Thai Text)*. Bangkok: Winyoochon Publication House, 2022.  
(พินัย ฅ นคร. *คำแปลภาษาอังกฤษของประมวลกฎหมายแพ่งและพาณิชย์ของไทย บรรพ ๑ และ บรรพ ๒ (พร้อมบทบัญญัติภาษาไทยที่เป็นทางการ)*. กรุงเทพฯ: สำนักพิมพ์วิญญูชน, ๒๕๖๕.)

###### Recommended Useful Texts

- Adler, Mark. “The Plain Language Movement,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Language and Law*. Edited by Peter M. Tiersma and Lawrence M. Solan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Butt, Peter, and Richard Castle. *Modern Legal Drafting*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Crabbe, Vcrac. *Legislative Drafting Volume I*. London: Cavendish Publishing Limited, 1998.
- Emanuel, Lazar. *Latin for Lawyers: The Language of Law*. New York: Emanuel Publishing Corp., 1999.
- Fellmeth, Aron X., and Maurice Horwitz. *Guide to Latin in International Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

- Haggard, Thomas R. *Legal Drafting in a Nutshell*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. St. Paul: West Publishing, 2006.
- Haigh, Rupert. *Legal English*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Routledge, 2018.
- Morgan, James A. *An English Version of Legal Maxims*. Alpha Editions, 2019.
- Peloubet, Seymour S. *Collection of Legal Maxims in Law and Equity: With English Translations*. Forgotten Books, 2018.
- Ray, Mary B., and Jill J. Ramsfield. *Legal Writing*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. St. Paul: West Publishing, 2010.
- Trayner, John. *Latin Maxims: Collected from the Institutional Writers on the Law of Scotland and Other Sources, with Translations and Illustrations*. Sweet & Maxwell, 1993.

**B. For lectures to be delivered by Associate Professor Dr. Nartnirun Junggam**

(To be announced by the instructor in due course.)

**C. For lectures to be delivered by Associate Professor Dr. Jaruprapa Rakpong**

(To be announced by the instructor in due course.)

#### 6. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

○ Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn's responsibility:	60%
■ Final Examination	
○ Associate Professor Dr. Nartnirun Junggam's responsibility:	20%
■ Final Examination	
○ Associate Professor Dr. Jaruprapa Rakpong's responsibility:	20%
■ Assignment	
Total:	<u>100%</u>

#### 7. CLASS SCHEDULES

No.	Date	Topics	Instructors
1	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Characteristics of Legal English and Legal Writing: I	Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn
2	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	Characteristics of Legal English and Legal Writing: II	Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn
3	29 January 2024	Practice on Legal Writing	Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn
4	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Legal Terminologies in Contract Law: Formation of Contract and Validity	Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn

5	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Legal Terminologies in Contract Law: Performance, Breach and Remedies	Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn
6	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Legal Terminologies in Law of Torts	Professor Dr. Pinai Nanakorn
<b>Mid-Term Examination Period</b>			
7	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Academic Legal Writing 1	Associate Professor Dr. Nartnirun Junngam
8	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Academic Legal Writing 2	Associate Professor Dr. Nartnirun Junngam
9	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Analytical Reading: Skimming and Scanning Techniques for Reading Legal Writings 1	Associate Professor Dr. Jaruprapa Rakpong
10	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024	Analytical Reading: Skimming and Scanning Techniques for Reading Legal Writings 2	Associate Professor Dr. Jaruprapa Rakpong

## 8. IMPORTANT NOTES TO STUDENTS

As the teaching sessions for this course are primarily designed to be of sequential continuity, absence from early sessions will simply prevent proper understanding of the topics to be covered in later teaching sessions. Class attendance is, therefore, strictly encouraged. Notably, the instructors' first-hand experience will directly be conveyed through their class-teaching.

### Public Holidays:

24 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Makha Bucha Day
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Compensatory Holiday
6 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Chakri Memorial Day
11 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Songkran Festival Long Weekend
4 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Coronation Day

---