

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	35232
<b>Name</b>	Competition Law
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	4.5
<b>Academic year</b>	2023 - 2024

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. Period</b>
1303 - Degree in Law	Faculty of Law	4    Second term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1303 - Degree in Law	25 - Competition law	Optional

**Coordination**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
RUIZ PERIS, JUAN IGNACIO	70 - Mercantile Law 'Manuel Broseta Pont'

**SUMMARY**

The course Competition Law is an optional, one-term course worth 4.5 credits, taught in the fourth year of the Degree in Law.

According to the *Verifica* of the Study Plan, this course is about the following topics:

- Competition as an economic system
- Unfair competition (regulation, delimitation of the application of the different rules) and Antitrust Law (regulation of collusive and abusive practices, antitrust authorities, etc.)
- Distinctive signs (especially trademarks)
- Industrial design



- Inventions

## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### Other requirements

The Study Plan of the Degree in Law does not establish any previous requirements to follow the course on Competition Law. Nevertheless, its study assumes that the student knows about the statute of the commercial entrepreneur (Commercial Law I), the general theory of contracts and obligations (Civil Law II) and commercial contracts (Commercial Law II).

## OUTCOMES

### 1303 - Degree in Law

- Know the content and application of each of the branches of the legal system.
- Understand the legal system as unitary and have an interdisciplinary perspective of legal problems.
- Understand the constitutional regulatory framework, the political institutions of the State and their functioning.
- Know the community and international regulatory framework, its institutions and their functioning.
- Be able to use legal sources (legal, jurisprudential and doctrinal).
- Be able to read and interpret legal texts.
- Be able to communicate correctly both orally and in writing in the field of law.
- Be able to analyse legal problems and synthesise their approach and resolution.
- Be able to use information and communication technology to obtain and select legal information.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course “Competition Law” focuses on the student acquiring the following basic learning results:

- Capacity to know the antitrust authorities, its competencies and its relationship with the judiciary in the application of Competition Law (related to Degree Capacities CE 2,3,5,6,7)
- Capacity to know the actions that constitute unfair competition and the applicable sanctions (CE 2,3,7,8,9,10,13)



- Capacity to know the different aspects of industrial property (distinctive signs, desing, models, patents) and the protection offered by the legal system against their violation (CE 2,3,7,8,9,10,13)

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. COMPETITION AND LAW

- I. Competition as an economic system
- II. Competition law systems. Globalisation and competition law.
- III. Competition and the European Union
  - Double barrier
  - Effects on the trade between the Member States
- IV. Spanish constitutional framework
- V. Competition Law rules
  - a) Unfair Competition Law
  - b) Antitrust Law
  - c) Consumer protection legislation.
- VI. Competition authorities: decentralization at national and EU level.
- VII. Courts and administrative and jurisdictional enforcement.

### 2. UNFAIR COMPETITION

- I. General remarks and historical background. Protected interests served by the unfair competition legislation.
- II. International, European and comparative approach to unfair competition law.
- III. Unfair competition legislation.
- IV. Scope of application of LCD
- V. General clauses: B2B, B2b and B2C conducts
- VI. General prohibitions
- VII. Commercial practices prohibited for consumer protection
- VIII. Codes of conduct
- IX. Actions against unfair conducts and illegal advertising
- X. Self-regulation in advertising
- XI. Unfair conducts considered antitrust violations.

### 3. INTRODUCTION TO ANTITRUST LAW

- I. General concepts
  - a) Concept of undertaking
  - b) Relevant market
  - c) Prohibited conducts v controlled conducts
  - d) Market power and effects on the market
- II. Administrative and jurisdictional enforcement
  - Proceedings before the competition authorities



Inspection, confidentiality and procedure  
Types of proceedings termination  
Jurisdictional enforcement  
Legality control of competition authorities decisions.  
Nullity and actions for damages

#### **4. PROHIBITED CONDUCTS**

- I. Collusive practices
  - a) General prohibition
  - b) More frequent collusive conducts
  - c) National legal exception
  - d) Auto-evaluation system
  - e) Block exemptions
- II. Abusive practices
  - a) Dominant position: definition and assessment criteria
  - b) Abuse concept
  - c) More frequent abusive conducts

#### **5. INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- I. Theory of intangible assets.
- II. Intellectual creations and distinctive signs.
- III. Types of intellectual creations and their protection
- IV. Types of distinctive signs and their protection.
- V. Intangible assets and the European Union.
- VI. Globalization and intangible assets.
- VII. Valuation of intangible assets.
- VIII. Actions.

#### **6. PROTECTION OF DISTINCTIVE SIGNS**

- I. Distinctive signs.
  - a) Concept and types.
  - b) Economic functions and legally protected functions.
  - c) Legal protection of distinctive signs.
- II. Trademarks.
  - a) Regulation of trademarks.
  - b) Signs susceptible of constituting a trademark.
  - c) Absolute prohibitions and relative prohibitions.
  - d) Protection of unregistered trademarks.
  - e) Content and limits of the trademark right.
  - f) Nullity, surrender and revocation.
  - g) Collective trademarks and guarantee trademarks.
- III. Trademarks and domain names.



- IV. Trademarks, Designations of Origin and Geographical Indications.
- V. Trademarks and commercial denominations of plant varieties.
- VI. Non-distinctive use of another party's trademark.

## **7. PROTECTION OF DESIGN**

- I. Protection of aesthetics, singularity and design.
- II. Requirements for the protection of design.
- III. Concept and economic function.
- IV. The legal regime of registered drawings and models.
- V. Legal regime of unregistered drawings and models.
- VI. Design and trademarks.
- VII. Protection of design by means of the authors' rights.
- VIII. Exclusion of the protection of the characteristics that are exclusively dictated by the technical function.

## **8. PROTECTION OF INVENTIONS**

- I. Knowledge, discovery and intellectual creation: the invention as an applied intellectual creation.
- II. Legal protection of patents.
  - a) Creations that are not inventions.
  - b) Patentability requirements.
  - c) Non-patentable inventions.
  - d) Right to obtain a patent.
  - e) Description and claims.
  - f) Content of the right.
  - g) Compulsory licenses.
  - h) Additions to the patent.
  - i) Nullity of the patent.
- III. Complementary certificates
- IV. Utility models.
- V. Complementary know-how.
- VI. Other modalities of protection.
  - a) Plant varieties.
  - b) Integrated circuits layout rights.





## WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theoretical and practical classes	45,00	100
Attendance at events and external activities	5,00	0
Development of individual work	6,00	0
Study and independent work	26,00	0
Readings supplementary material	3,00	0
Preparation of evaluation activities	6,00	0
Preparing lectures	8,00	0
Preparation of practical classes and problem	6,00	0
Resolution of case studies	7,50	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,50</b>	

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

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Teaching is based primarily in lectures, which will be combined with other materials that students may use to complement the course.

Books to follow the course will be recommended.

- Attendance to lectures, seminars and classroom activities: classroom lectures, case study, problem solving
- Preparation of lectures, works and tutorials: schemes, concept mapping, summaries, individual and/or group presentations, attendance to tutorials
- Preparation of exams and evaluation tests: reading comprehension of texts and other study materials

Exams and evaluation tests: oral or written expression of knowledge

## EVALUATION

The evaluation consists of:

1. Oral or written exam (it will be specified in the course guide). The exam will be worth 70% of the final grade.



Regardless of the general evaluation system (written or oral), the teacher may determine in the annex the option of changing the system if the exam has to take place on a date which is not the official one applying the regulations for the case of coincidence in exam dates that can be found in the Evaluation and Qualification Regulations of the Universitat de València.

1. Evaluation of supplementary and applied activities. This part will be worth 30% of the final grade. There will be at least one supplementary activity and also applied activities specified in the annex to the course guide.

Continuous evaluation activities (guided activities and supplementary activities) can't be replicated for the second call whenever their nature makes it impossible to repeat a similar test that evaluates the training of the student. The lecturer will specify the latter in the annex, where supplementary activities and guided activities that will take place during the course must be detailed.

The grade for the first call is formed by the result of the final test grade and the continuous evaluation in the percentages stated above. In second call the grade obtained in the continuous evaluation will be kept. In any case, students must pass the final test to pass the course. In the event of not passing the exam, the grade in the student's record will be the weighted sum of the grade obtained in the continuous evaluation and the grade obtained in the final test. The grade will not be higher than 4.5 (Fail).

Despite having, fully or partially, participated in the continuous evaluation, if the student does not show up to the final test, the grade in the record will be NOT PRESENTED. However, as an exception, if the student asks for it, and taking into consideration special circumstances, FAIL might be the grade in the record, considering only the weighed continuous evaluation.

## REFERENCES

### Basic

- BERCOVITZ RODRIGUEZ-CANO, A., Apuntes de derecho mercantil: derecho mercantil, derecho de la competencia y propiedad industrial, Thomson/Aranzadi.2016
- BERCOVITZ RODRIGUEZ-CANO, A., (Dir.) Comentarios a la Ley de Competencia Desleal, Thomson/Aranzadi.2011
- FERNÁNDEZ NOVOA, C OTERO LASTRES, J.M. BOTANA AGRA, M., Manual de la propiedad industrial. Marcial Pons. 2013.
- GUTIÉRREZ, MASSAGUER, SALA ARQUER, FOLGUERA CRESPO (dirs.), Comentario a la Ley de Defensa de la Competencia, Civitas, 2015.
- BERCOVITZ RODRÍGUEZ-CANO, A., La nueva Ley de patentes: Ley 24/2015, de 24 de julio, Aranzadi, 2015.