



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35089
Name: Private investigation: techniques and professional good practice
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Private investigation	ELECTIVES
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Year 4 optional subjects	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Private investigation: techniques and professional ethics: is an optional subject of 4.5 credits. Content includes private investigation classes and techniques; Areas of action of private investigation; Preparation of reports; Professional ethics of the private detective. Limits of professional action in democratic society.

The contents are structured around the analysis of two thematic blocks, the first addresses professional deontology and is made up of three parts and seven topics, which constitute the introduction to the knowledge of the principles, values and current problems in the activity of professionals of safety. The second focuses on the techniques that private investigation professionals apply in their daily work, both to obtain information with evidentiary value and for their social or judicial defense, distributing the subject into seven other topics,

- The professional deontology of Private Security has an introductory nature to ethics and deontology in the professional activity of activities related to private security. It deals with the values and principles that should inspire the exercise of professional security activity.

- The techniques of private investigation are a continuation of other, more general subjects, studied in the criminology degree, such as: public and private security, legal medicine, forensic psychiatry and scientific police, TIS and others that will be related. Here we are going to study much more concrete and specific



aspects of the specialty of private investigation, in which those subjects will be applied.

General objectives:

- Know the principles of the activity of private security professionals and, especially private detectives, within the framework of the Social and Democratic State of Law to be able to make decisions.
- Identify the main areas of conflict in the profession, the principles and values involved, the content of the ethical and legal standards that affect them.
- Learn to distinguish and resolve moral conflicts that may arise in the activity of private security professionals while introducing concepts and content related to ethics and deontology.
- Develop the ability to generate solutions to these ethical conflicts.
- Apply the knowledge acquired and techniques learned, in the Degree, to the professional activity of private investigation.
- Delimit the areas of professional action with respect to other private security and public security professionals.
- Build a professional and business scheme on the activity of the private investigator, as a natural outlet for the graduate in Criminology.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is important to have prior knowledge of techniques and other legal aspects that allow this subject to be considered as a professional activity.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Saber aplicar las técnicas de investigación adecuadas para la persecución de delitos y la resolución de conflictos sociales, garantizando la seguridad ciudadana y los derechos fundamentales.

Saber aplicar técnicas criminológicas y medidas de seguridad específicas para la protección de las personas, los bienes y el medio ambiente.

Tener una conciencia crítica frente a la realidad social y los problemas sociales respetando los principios de igualdad, derechos humanos, paz, accesibilidad universal, solidaridad y protección medioambiental, todo ello desde una perspectiva de género.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



1. Unit 1.- Standards of deontology for private security (I)

Conceptual introduction to the background and rules of private security deontology. Terminology of the subject. Key concepts: law, ethics, morals, deontology, self-regulation mechanisms, codes of ethics. Deontology. Concept. Deontology and the work of the private detective. The fulfillment of duty. The private detective in the democratic society in the light of the fundamental values it advocates.

2. Unit 2. Standards of deontology for private security (II)

-Private detective activity as a profession and public service: its role in a democratic state under the rule of law: security, society and values.

-Standards of deontology of private and police security.

-Respect for human dignity in any activity. Ethical sense of private investigation.

-The rational use of force: the limits of legitimate self-defense and the legitimate fulfillment of a duty, in the light of ethical criteria.

3. Unit 3. Basic principles of action, ethical duties and professionalism criteria

The second part examines some of the principles and values in the activity of private security professionals. Among them, confidentiality and professional secrecy will be developed.

- The principles of behavior, referring to private security personnel, contained in Law 5/2014, of April 4, 2014 on Private Security.

- Proportionality criteria: in Law 5/2014 on Private Security in view of the doctrine of our courts.

4. Unit 4. Confidentiality and professional secrecy

Analysis of conflict situations. Legitimacy of the assignment. Duty of confidentiality and obligation to report. Prior knowledge of facts and conflict of interest. Other conflict situations.

5. Unit 5. Cultural diversity and activity of security professionals

In the third part, some of the problems and dilemmas that security professionals may face have been selected from among many others.

Analysis of conflict situations. Other conflict situations: Multiculturalism, cultural and ethnic diversity.



6. Unit 6. Privacy in the public sphere: right to image and honor

Conflict of rights. Privacy, right to self-image and honor.

7. Unit 7. Other questions of professional deontology of private detectives.

Situation in Spain and Europe regarding private detectives. Analysis of the existing codes of ethics and their enforceability. The concurrence of Professional Associations and Colleges in relation to the approval of codes of ethics and their enforceability.

Professional fees: applicable deontological criteria. The ethical requirement of previous budget. Applicable legal regulation and its relation with the deontological rules.

8. Unit 8: Personal sources

Surveillance and Tracking. Investigation with human sources. The interview, investigations under pretext, simulation and its limits, infiltration in business, labor and social structures

9. Unit 9: Open sources.

Public and private registries: Organization, publicity and evidentiary value. Land Registry, Commercial Registry, Civil Registry, SPTO the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office, CNMV National Securities Market Commission... Other documentary sources: telephone directories, press, Internet, social networks...

10. Unit 10: Technological Systems

- Investigation in electronic media: Computer Forensic Investigation.

- Technology for Private Detectives: Documentation of facts through the reproduction of image and sound, communications, systems for capturing, editing and printing images, video editing, text editing systems...

11. Unit 11: Planning, reporting and environments

- Research Planning, Analysis of Results and Report Writing. The investigation report. Ratification of reports and trial testimony.

- Introduction to private investigation environments: Family, work, social and its variations.

- Personal and family investigations:

- Investigations in the labor field.



12. Unit 12. Environments 1

- Personal and family investigations:
- Investigations of patrimonial, economic and financial scope.

13. Unit 13. Environments 2

- Insurance and mutual insurance investigations.
- Real estate leasing investigations.
- Business and business intelligence investigations.

14. Unit 14: Environments 3

- Investigations in support of litigation.
- Investigation of crimes prosecutable at the request of a party.
- Surveillance in areas of high concurrence.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	45,00
Total hours	45,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	3,50
Individual or group project	21,00
Independent study and work	16,00
Preparation of lessons	7,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	10,00
Total hours	67,50

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The development of the subject is structured in relation to the theoretical-practical class sessions, and the completion of a final exercise based on a practical case.

Attendance in class activities is mandatory for all students.



This subject is taught within a face-to-face module and will also use the UV teaching platform: Aula Virtual (aulavirtual.uv.es). The program and the materials that the student must read and analyze will appear stored there. the appropriate assignments that may be requested from the students must also be sent to the teacher through it.

EVALUATION

The grade of the subject will be determined from the grades obtained from the continuous evaluation carried out in each group, which corresponds to 30% of the final grade, and from the completion of the final test on the dates set by the Faculty. which corresponds to 70% of the final grade.

It will be necessary to obtain a minimum passing grade in the final test to pass the subject, regardless of the grade obtained in the continuous evaluation, for each of the parts of the subject. To pass the subject, both parts must be approved. In case of failing one part and approving the other, the grade of the part approved in the second call will be kept.

The professor's annex will detail the conditions of the continuous evaluation and the oral or written nature of the final test on the dates set by the Faculty.

Students who do not complete the continuous evaluation may take the final test in the first call, and the grade obtained will be limited to the weighted value that this test has in the final grade (70%), so that, at most, You will be able to obtain a 7 as a final grade.

If the first call is suspended, the grade obtained in the continuous evaluation is maintained for the second call. If the teacher's annex foresees that there is some activity as recoverable, it will determine the way to obtain the grade for the same/s in the second call.

Regardless of the general evaluation system established for all students (written or oral exam), the professor in charge of the subject will be able to reasonably determine in the annex to the course syllabus the possibility of changing the modality of the final exam when a students needs to take it on a date different from the official one, in application of the rules for exam clashing, or any other cause established by the examination regulation (e.g., cases of justified force majeure). In these cases, the new modality of exam to be taken must maintain the same level of stringency and difficulty as the one generally given to the rest of the group.

The students who have followed the continuous evaluation and have obtained a grade for but decided not to take the final exam on the official dates (both in the 1st and 2nd call), will graded as NOT PRESENTED".

REFERENCES

- VALLS GENOVAR, M^a ANGELES. Directora de la obra colectiva La prueba de detective privado en los procesos de familia. Aspectos sustantivos, procesales y técnicos-profesionales de la obtención de la prueba. Madrid, La Ley, 2023 -IZQUIERDO CARRASCO, Manuel; La seguridad



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- ANTON BARBERA, Francisco y SOLER TORMO Juan Ignacio: Administración policial: legislación e investigación privada de Editorial: Tirant lo Blanch.
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- RODRÍGUEZ-FARGE RICETTI, M.; Manual per a policia i aspirants a policia. Drets humans i deontologia en la funció policial, Barcelona, Atelier llibres jurídics, 2004
- LAMAS ESTEVEZ, M.A.; Deontología Policial: ética profesional de los cuerpos de seguridad desde principios morales de los derechos humanos, Madrid, Dykinson, 2002. (disponible en la base de datos de la Universitat de València: <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/universvaln>)
- TALENS VISCONTI, EDUARDO E. i VALLS GENOVARD, M^a ANGELES (Directores), "La actividad de los detectives privados en el ámbito laboral. Aspectos substantivos i procesales de la obtención de la prueba", Edit. Wolters Kluwer, Julio 2020
- RIDAURA MARTÍNEZ, M^a JOSEFA. "Seguridad privada y derechos fundamentales: la nueva Ley 5/2014, de 4 de abril de Seguridad Privada". 2015, Tirant lo Blanch. - RIDAURA MARTÍNEZ, M^a JOSEFA. "Los derechos fundamentales como límites en el marco de la investigación privada". 2021. Revista Teoría y Realidad Constitucional, editada por el Departamento de Derecho Político de la UNED. - AYLLON SANTIAGO, HÉCTOR S. "Deontología teórica y práctica para profesionales de la Criminología (Criminología y práctica policial)". 2017, Edit. Reus S.A.