



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Legal Medicine

2122-5-H4102D037-H4102D154M

Aims

The aim of the course is to explain the role of legal/forensic medicine in a modern society, with the basic mission of proper application of justice in different legal systems, in all medical health care fields.

Contents

Fundamentals rights and legislative principles related to legal medicine will be presented within the different tasks of forensic medicine: forensic pathology, thanatology and forensic autopsy, clinical forensic medicine, medical aspects of death; forensic anthropology, doctor-patient relation, expert opinions in court, welfare system, special legislations in medicine, medical and surgical malpractice.

Detailed program

Introduction to legal/forensic medicine (History and Duties of legal medicine).

Forensic pathology (wound classification, wound examination and wound documentation, crime scene investigation).

Thanatology and forensic autopsy (post-mortem changes, time since death, certification of death and of cause of death; external examination, autopsy technique in internal examination, post-mortem imaging).

Clinical forensic medicine (sexual offences, domestic and gender violence, child abuse and neglect, torture, age estimation in living individuals).

Medico-legal aspects of natural and violent death (sudden and unexpected death from natural causes in adults and

infants, violent death).

Forensic anthropology (identification in living and in deceased, identification of human remains).

Doctor-patient relation (medical record, informed consent, medical research trials, mandatory judicial authority report in suspect crimes).

Expert opinions in court (expert witnesses and presentation of scientific evidence).

Welfare system in a modern society: disability, chronic illness, work injury, work-related illness.

Special legislations in medicine (transplantation/organ donation, legal abortion, mandatory medical activities).

Medical malpractice (active malpractice, omission in medicine, negligence in health care, error prevention strategies).

Prerequisites

There are no mandatory courses however students will benefit from having undertaken “biostatistics”, “health economics” and “Turning Clinical Experience Into Research Projects”.

Teaching form

Face-to-face classroom: Lectures; the teacher promotes discussion among students on problems related to forensic medicine with real case reports.

In case of social distancing for preventing a pandemy: Online Teaching in a *Virtual learning environment* (moodle elearning) with a mixed model

Asynchronous: Videolectures and slides; schemes, articles, videos, podcasts, casework (trial decisions)

Synchronous for active student's participation: Q&A lectures, single topic lectures

Textbook and teaching resource

Italian Court Judgments, guidelines and other educational material uploaded in various formats on the e-learning website

Madea, *Handbook of Forensic Medicine*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014

Pekka Saukko and Bernard Knight, *Knight's Forensic Pathology*, 4th Ed. CRC Press, 2015.

Pomara, Fineschi *Forensic and Clinical Forensic Autopsy*, CRC Press, 2021.

Semester

second semester

Assessment method

The final exam is composed by two sections:

- 1) a written presentation of a case report, prepared individually by each student and presented orally
- 2) two further other questions, not related to the case report, regarding topics of the course will be asked orally

Office hours

By appointment arranged via e-mail
