UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Legal Medicine

2425-5-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 teaching-classroom: all Lectures in delivering type in Italian language; the teacher promotes discussion among students on problems related to medical malpractice, involving students and asking them to report personal experiences and discussing real cases and professional examples also about the evaluation of functional impairment, with the use of interactive teaching material (video lessons and slides; articles, videos, podcasts, case studies (sentences), peer-to-peer learning (student’s presentations)), provided by the teacher on the moodle e-learning platform (Virtual learning environment).

In case of emergency situations (natural disasters, weather warnings (deluge, floods), uprisings, pandemics, etc.) online teaching-classroom with synchronous lectures online on the Webex platform.

Textbook and teaching resource

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

Madea B., "Handbook of Forensic Medicine", 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2022
Kemp WL., “Atlas of Forensic Pathology: A Pattern-Based Approach”, LWW, 2024
Pomara C., Fineschi V., "Forensic and Clinical Forensic Autopsy", CRC Press, 2021.

Semester

second semester

Assessment method

There are no ongoing tests.

Final exam in presence consisting in two mandatory parts, written and oral:

a) written part with individual preparation at home of a report on a medical-legal topic chosen by the student with a case invented or real (min 2000 - max 3000 words) and oral presentation with slide in the classroom (20 minutes), to evaluate the ability of reasoning with the forensic methodology, the ability to rework regulatory and interpretative aspects of the presented case, the ability to synthesize with extraction of the relevant points of the topic and the case presented and the ability to use technical language and arguments both in written and oral form.

b) oral part with 2 questions of the program topics to assess the student's knowledge of the module program.

Office hours

By appointment arranged via e-mail writing to daniela.schillaci@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS