



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information

2526-3-E1401A024

Learning objectives

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will acquire knowledge of the main legal concepts specific to the field of informatics, which constitute the core elements of legal informatics in the context of public administration (PA); and to understand the key-normative concepts emerging from the use and application of new technologies within public administration.

B) Applied Knowledge and Understanding

Students will learn to identify, select, and use appropriate linguistic, logical, and analytical tools to define, understand, and interpret legal concepts in informatics, and to apply relevant notions consciously across different contexts of the PA.

They will develop the ability to reconstruct the possible meanings of legal expressions typical of the PA, analyze frequently used concepts in the digital context, and interpret legal texts and/or informatic content, assigning accurate meaning to the materials examined.

Students will also be able to identify and manage basic informatic content with legal relevance, such as issues related to information and consent for data processing, privacy, cybersecurity, electronic signatures, and digitally mediated applications with legal implications in different areas of the PA.

Finally, students will understand the specific features of legal tools in relation to new informatic applications within the PA.

C) Making Judgements

Students will develop independent judgment regarding the correct application of legal concepts specific to informatics within the PA, together with the ability to autonomously apply legal classifications and reasoning in relation to new technologies.

D) Communication Skills

Students will be able to communicate clearly and appropriately the theoretical aspects and main legal concepts relevant to and within the PA, using correctly the tools provided during the course. Communication should address the specific features of key legal concepts employed in public administration in relation to informatic tools. These skills will enable students to discuss both general theoretical issues and specific practical competencies relevant to the main activities of the PA.

E) Learning Skills

Students will acquire the ability to learn the main topics of legal informatics within the specific context of the PA. They will be able to understand the different legal classifications and the various types of legal and informatic tools currently available to public administration.

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Teaching language: Italian.**

Contents

The course will focus on the main key concepts of legal informatics, with particular attention to the use of specific tools employed within public administration (PA). The course will analyze selected areas of the PA as reshaped by the introduction of legal informatics tools. Particular emphasis will be placed on the distinctive features of legal language and instruments, within the broader framework of legal informatics and its impact on the PA.

Specific attention will be given to fundamental notions essential for the education of legal professionals in this field. In addition to basic and classical concepts such as norm, legal system, unlawfulness, sanction, legal obligation, subjective right, and fundamental rights, the course will also explore concepts relevant to the contemporary context of public administration, including data, protection and security, artificial intelligence, transparency, certified electronic mail (PEC), and digital signature.

Special consideration will be given to analyzing the main operations that legal professionals can perform within the PA using new technologies, without overlooking the important legal issues related to constantly evolving normative sources and the responsibilities of human agents, which are relevant both in theoretical reflection and in practical applications of legal informatics.

The course will be supplemented by meetings and seminars, for which specific information will be provided during the course.

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Teaching language: Italian.**

Detailed program

The course will cover, as a general guide and not exhaustively, the following topics:

Introduction and overview of the Legal Informatics course for Public Administration (PA).

Legal informatics as a language.

Public institutions in the information society: law and technological transformation

Public administration in the digital era.

Personal data: balancing security and privacy.

The GDPR (Regulation EU 679/2016).

Data security from past to future: certified electronic mail (PEC), digital domicile, and digital signature.

Artificial intelligence and law: the legal regulation of artificial intelligence.

Legal analysis of AI-related risks: selected ethical approaches to AI.

The EU Artificial Intelligence Act (2024) and its current relevance in public administration contexts.

Italian legislation on AI: Law No. 132/2025 in the context of public administration.

Teaching language: Italian.

Prerequisites

Linguistic and cognitive skills acquired during upper secondary education.

Basic logical, linguistic, and theoretical-legal skills (competences developed during the academic program of the Legal Studies course).

Teaching methods

The course will be delivered through a combination of teaching methods:

10 two-hour lectures delivered in person in a traditional didactic format.

8 two-hour lectures delivered in person, with an initial didactic component followed by an interactive phase designed to actively engage students.

3 two-hour lectures delivered remotely in a didactic format.

Accordingly, the course will include lectures and interactive sessions, in-class discussions, practical exercises, and participation in seminars.

The teaching activities will include:

Analysis and study of the main theoretical issues relevant to legal informatics in public administration (PA).

Definition and redefinition, in specific applied contexts, of notions, statements, and theoretical-legal issues related to legal informatics for the PA.

A critical approach and guided analysis of theoretical-legal issues currently debated regarding the main information technologies used in the PA.

Analysis of the main legal sources on the topic, as well as examination of normative and argumentative texts related to key issues of legal informatics in the context of the PA.

Assessment methods

****The exam consists of an oral test ****covering the topics addressed in lectures and based on the course materials (recommended manuals, articles, and documents provided on the e-learning platform), which constitute the full content of the course.

The oral exam takes the form of an interview on the topics presented in class, with further discussion referring to the indicated texts and a selection of recommended readings. Particular attention will be given to the main legal instruments in relation to public administration (PA), as discussed during lectures. The objective is to assess students' ability to understand and clearly present the key topics and most relevant aspects of the subject using appropriate terminology. To this end, examples of typical oral exam questions will be provided during lectures, which is why regular attendance is strongly recommended.

Assessment criteria are based on students' knowledge and understanding of the fundamental contents of the discipline, as well as their ability to apply the acquired knowledge, including through individual critical reflection.

No intermediate tests will be conducted. The final exam will consist of an oral interview aimed at evaluating the technical-specific competences and logical-argumentative skills developed in the field of legal informatics for public administration.

Specifically, the final exam will cover the course topics: for all students, it will focus on the subjects addressed in class, as indicated by the instructor via the course e-learning platform, supplemented by additional contents and materials made available on the same platform.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

For all students, the exam should be prepared by studying lecture notes and the sections indicated during the course from the following text:

A. C. Amato Mangiameli, G. Saraceni, *Cento e una voce di informatica giuridica*, Giappichelli, Torino, 2023.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
