UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Legal Medicine

2627-4-H4601D019-H4601D051M

Aims

The aim of the module Legal Medicine is to provide students with the tools for understanding the typical aspects of legal medicine and the dentist's medico-legal obligations, also in the role of forensic odontologist, through the analysis of norms and practical cases, including judicial ones.
The specific knowledge of forensic medicine selected and discussed is the basis for understanding the dentist's medical-legal obligations and professional responsibility of the dentist and the odontostomatological team, as required by the civil and criminal laws of the Italian legal system.

Contents

The course provides students with notions about forensic medicine in all clinical and health organizational areas, in tort law assessment and in the health organization. The basics of the Italian State judicial organization and its principal rules of criminal and civil procedure will be presented and the essential legal elements that regulate the relation between the dentist, the institutions and the patients will be discussed.

Detailed program

Definition, scope, generality and methodology of the discipline legal medicine.
The medico-legal methodology: causality and study of causation and medico-legal criteriology, applied to medical malpractice cases.
The national health service in the social context and its relationship with the judiciary system.
Legal, ethical and deontological duties of the dentist.
Informed consent in dental care, consent in minors and disabled patient.
The professional secret in healthcare.

Mandatory reports for the healthcare professional, medical certificate and records, civil and penal expertise.
Forensic pathology: contusive injuries, including transportation injuries in traffic accidents, abuse and maltreatment.
Cause and time of death. Homicide and personal injuries.
Overview of autopsy: judicial and health autopsy, Virtopsy.
Health professional responsibility in civil and criminal matters (Law 24/2017 Provisions on the security of care and the assisted person, and professional responsibility of health professionals).
Tort law and professional liability, the duty of compensation.
Brief hints about private insurances (accident, health, health expenses, life).
Defensive medicine.
Prevention of conflict and litigation in dentistry.

Prerequisites

Dental pathology and clinics

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 dentist malpractice and to modern dentistry, involving students and asking them to report personal experiences and discussing real cases and professional examples also about the evaluation of dental 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).

All classes are held in-person in delivering type in Italian language: 10 lectures of 3 hours each; the in-person lectures are also videorecorded.

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

Textbook and teaching resource

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

Norelli GA, Pinchi W. "Odontologia Forense parte 1 e parte 2". Piccin Editore, Padova, 2011
Introna F., Santoro V., Fiandaca C. "La responsabilità professionale in Odontoiatria",Piccin Editore, Padova, 2010
Zagra M., Argo A. "Medicina legale orientata per problemi". Edra Edizioni, 2^Ed., Milano 2018
Scarpelli M.L., "L'Odontoiatra e la responsabilità professionale (dopo la legge Gelli/Bianco)". AriesDue srl. Milano 2018
Cicognani A., Fallani M., Pelotti S. "Medicina Legale". Soc. Ed. Esculapio, Bologna 2019 (ebook)

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 abilities of reasoning with the forensic methodology, to rework regulatory and interpretative aspects of the presented case, 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 exam part with a draw of 2 questions (program topics) to be answered in 7 min + 7 min to assess the knowledge of the module program.

Office hours

face-to-face or online via webex by appointment arranged via e-mail.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING