UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Law of Successions

2627-5-A5810186

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the principal institutions of Italian succession law. Particular attention will be devoted to the analysis of practical cases and recent judicial decisions, with a view to identifying the main trends in contemporary Italian succession law.
The course is designed to achieve a high level of academic and professional training, also with the objective of preparing students to address succession law issues arising in the major post-graduate professional examinations and competitive public examinations in Italy (notary exam; judiciary exam; bar exam).

A) Knowledge and ability to understand
To develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of Italian succession law, with particular emphasis on the principal legal issues arising in relation to testate succession, forced heirship, and intestate succession.

B) Applied knowledge and ability to understand
To apply the theoretical concepts acquired to specific factual situations that may arise in everyday life. In particular, to identify the core legal issues involved and to apply the general principles learned in order to solve practical cases.
To understand how to locate and use statutory sources, case law, and scholarly contributions in the field of succession law. The course aims to provide students with a methodological approach to legal research using databases and electronic resources, enabling them to navigate the evolving landscape of available legal sources, including those accessible through AI-based software.

C) Autonomy of judgement
To develop independent judgment in identifying legal issues, researching the applicable legal rules, locating relevant sources, and analysing possible legal solutions, while also critically assessing the reliability of the answers provided by artificial intelligence software.

D) Communication skills
To demonstrate the ability to communicate legal issues clearly and to discuss the principal statutory provisions and legal principles relevant to different legal problems.

E) Learning skills
To be able to locate statutory provisions and to interpret any legal rule independently.
To understand how different artificial intelligence software systems operate, with a view to assessing the reliability of the results they generate in the field of succession law.
To understand the role of case law within the Italian law of succession, which is founded on statutory law.

Contents

1. General principles of the law of succession
2. Intestate succession
3. Testamentary succession
4. Forced heirship
5. The acquisition of the inheritance
6. Relations between the heir and third parties
7. Relations between co-heirs
8. Donation and non-donative gifts

Detailed program

1. General principles of the law of succession

2. Intestate succession

3. Testamentary succession

4. Forced heirship

5. The acquisition of the inheritance

6. Relations between the heir and third parties

7. Relations between co-heirs

8. Donation and non-donative gifts

Prerequisites

Passing the Institutions of Private Law exam.

Teaching methods

Course delivered in Italian language, and with various teaching modes.

Of the 21 lectures, of two hours each:

- 18 lectures will be conducted in-person;
- 3 lectures will be conducted remotely, in asynchronous mode (with video recording uploaded on the course e-learning platform).

As for the teaching mode, of the total 21 lectures:

- 18 lectures will be conducted with a first part in “ erogative” mode, and a second part in “ interactive” mode, with discussion of practical cases;
- 3 lectures will be dedicated to written exercises (on issues of inheritance law), which will reproduce the conduct of three of the main post-graduate examinations (i.e. public notary competition, judiciary competition, bar exam).

Attendance is highly recommended.

Assessment methods

Oral examination, on the topics covered in the textbook and in the materials uploaded on the e-learning page

The evaluation will take into account the theoretical skills acquired, the accuracy of the answers, the ability to reason about legal principles, as well as the argumentative effectiveness.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. G. Iorio, Diritto delle successioni, Giappichelli, Torino, 2023.
2. A. Semprini, Successioni a causa di morte: problemi, tendenze, prospettive, Giappichelli, Torino, 2026 (excluding Chapter X).
3. Materials discussed in class and uploaded on the e-learning page.

As regards the course materials, reference should be made to the slides and the case law uploaded to the e-learning platform?.
The materials uploaded on the e-learning page are part of the examination program.

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES