

Table 5.2. Course Specification			
Study programme: First-cycle academic studies of the first level – Law			
Course title: Inheritance Law			
Instructor: Dragica Đ. Živojinović			
Course status: Compulsory, second year, fourth semester			
ECTS: 7			
Prerequisites: None			
Course Aim The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the institutions of inheritance law, the substantive law norms governing the property law consequences of the death of a natural person, and the rules of probate proceedings. Its study ensures the acquisition of fundamental theoretical knowledge necessary for the application and interpretation of inheritance law provisions and non-contentious procedure provisions, and equips students to resolve practical problems they will encounter in carrying out legal work in this field.			
Learning Outcomes Upon passing the exam, the student has acquired theoretical knowledge in the field of substantive inheritance law and probate proceedings; is equipped to understand, interpret and apply inheritance law provisions and non-contentious procedure provisions; is equipped to resolve constructed and real-life cases relating to the settlement of an estate; and is equipped to draft legal documents in this field.			
Course Content Theoretical instruction 1. Introduction to inheritance law – concept and significance of inheritance law; principles and sources of inheritance law, universal and singular succession. 2. Conditions for inheritance (death of the testator; grounds for being called to an inheritance; the estate and exclusions from the estate; existence of heirs, incapacity and unworthiness to inherit). 3. Inheritance by operation of law – concept and significance of intestate succession; ordinary rules of intestate succession; general rules of the parentelic system, right of representation; succession by order of heirs in Serbian law; special rules of intestate succession. 4. Testamentary succession – making a will (testamentary capacity, the testator's intention, form of a will); forms of will in Serbian law; content of a will, designation of an heir, simple and fideicommissary substitution; legacy; charge; interpretation, revocation and annulment of a will. 5. Forced heirship – right to a forced share, legal nature of the right to a forced share, disinheritance of forced heirs; violation and protection of the forced share. 5. Contracts in inheritance law – prohibited contracts in inheritance law; inheritance agreement; agreement on the transfer and distribution of property during the lifetime of the transferor; lifetime maintenance agreement. 6. Probate proceedings – basic rules of probate proceedings; parties to probate proceedings; preliminary proceedings (death certificate, procedure regarding a will); measures to secure the estate; preparation of the probate hearing, probate hearing; probate decision; legal finality of a probate decision; legal remedies in probate proceedings. 7. Legal position of the heir – inheritance declaration (positive and negative, renunciation in favour of a specific co-heir); liability of the heir for the testator's debts; separatio bonorum; inheritance claim; legal position of co-heirs (co-heir's right to a share, division of the inheritance, bringing gifts and legacies into account against the inheritance share – collatio bonorum). Practical instruction Further clarification of some topics covered in lectures, with special emphasis on interpreting the basic institutions of inheritance law and the rules on succession. Mock trials, resolution of constructed cases of estate distribution among intestate heirs, diagrams of blood kinship and diagrams of intestate heirs, calculation of the size of the forced share of forced heirs; templates of wills and contracts in inheritance law – real-life examples. Discussion of selected topics with active student participation. Preparation for colloquia and the exam. Evaluation of teaching and analysis of its results.			
Literature Kenneth G. C. Reid, Marius J. de Waal, Reinhard Zimmermann, Comparative Succession Law: Volume II: Intestate Succession, Oxford University Press, 2015.. Kenneth G. C. Reid, Jan Peter Schmidt, Reinhard Zimmermann, Comparative Succession Law: Volume IV: Administration of Estates, Oxford University Press, 2025. Richard Hedlund, The Law of Succession, Hall and Stott Publishing Ltd, 2021.			
Hours of active teaching		Other hours	
Lectures: 45	Exercises: 30	Other forms of instruction:	Study research work:

Teaching Methods Lectures are held in a lecture hall with all students. Exercises are conducted in groups in classrooms: (1) as lecture-style exercises, where specific lecture topics are further developed and the institutions of inheritance law and the rules on succession are analysed; (2) as demonstration exercises – diagrams of blood kinship and diagrams of intestate heirs, templates of wills and contracts; and (3) as discussion exercises, for discussing selected topics from the covered material.
Knowledge Assessment (maximum points: 100)

Pre-exam obligations	Points	Final exam	Points
Attendance and activity during lectures/exercises	20	Written exam	-
Colloquium – first	15	Oral exam	50
Colloquium – second	15	-	-