

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE

Revised Course Syllabus (1 Unit)

AY 2025-2026

I. Course Identification

Course Title: Medical Jurisprudence

Credit Units: 1 Unit

Total Contact Hours: 15 hours

Schedule: 1 hour per week

Course Type: Required for Bar Application / Bar-Oriented Support Course

Prerequisite: Criminal Law I & II, Evidence, Civil Law (recommended)

II. Course Description

Medical Jurisprudence is an applied law course examining how **medical science functions as evidence** in judicial decision-making. It focuses on the **translation of medical findings into legal conclusions**, particularly in criminal, civil, and special law contexts commonly encountered in litigation and the bar examinations.

The course emphasizes **evidence appreciation, expert testimony, injury interpretation, forensic identification, and medical responsibility**, departing from purely descriptive Legal Medicine and aligning instruction with actual judicial reasoning.

III. Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

A. Knowledge

1. Explain core medico-legal concepts and their role in Philippine jurisprudence
2. Identify the legal significance of injuries, death, mental conditions, and medical findings
3. Distinguish medical conclusions from judicial determinations

B. Skills

4. Analyze medical records, medico-legal reports, and expert testimony
5. Apply medico-legal principles to bar-type questions and case problems
6. Evaluate consistency between medical evidence and testimonial or circumstantial evidence

C. Values

7. Demonstrate ethical and professional handling of medical information
 8. Appreciate the limits of medical science in judicial truth-finding
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IV. Course Structure and Weekly Outline

(1 Module = 1 Contact Hour)

Module 1 – Medical Jurisprudence: Where Medicine Meets the Law

Learning Units:

- What Medical Jurisprudence Really Does
- Medical Evidence in the Courtroom
- The Physician as Expert Witness

Bar Focus: Weight of expert testimony; courts are not bound by medical opinion

Module 2 – Anatomy & Physical Injuries: Reading the Body as Evidence

Learning Units:

- Classifying Injuries Medico-Legally
- Wounds, Directionality, and Force
- Defense Wounds and Resistance

Bar Focus: Injury classification; credibility of self-defense claims

Module 3 – Identity: Biometrics, DNA, and Legal Certainty

Learning Units:

- Traditional Means of Identification
- DNA Evidence in Criminal and Civil Cases

Bar Focus: DNA as corroborative, not conclusive, evidence

Module 4 – Reproduction & Pregnancy: Law, Biology, and Proof

Learning Units:

- Pregnancy as Medico-Legal Evidence
- Abortion, Miscarriage, and Fetal Viability

Bar Focus: Pregnancy as proof of sexual intercourse; limits of biological proof

Module 5 – Violence Against Women: Injuries, Trauma, and Proof

Learning Units:

- Physical and Psychological Injuries in VAW
- Medico-Legal Examination in VAW Cases

Bar Focus: Trauma-informed evidence appreciation; absence of injury not determinative

Module 6 – Child Abuse: Medicine, Vulnerability, and the Law

Learning Units:

- Identifying Abuse vs. Accident
- Sexual Abuse in Minors

Bar Focus: Pattern injuries; credibility assessment in child testimony

Module 7 – Addiction & Intoxication: Capacity, Consent, and Crime

Learning Units:

- Alcohol and Drug Intoxication
- Addiction as Disease or Defense

Bar Focus: Intoxication as mitigating, aggravating, or exculpatory

Module 8 – Insanity: Medicine, Mind, and Mens Rea

Learning Units:

- Legal vs. Medical Insanity
- Psychiatric Evaluation and Burden of Proof

Bar Focus: Exempting and mitigating circumstances

Module 9 – Sexuality: Medical Evidence and Legal Boundaries

Learning Units:

- Medico-Legal Proof in Sexual Offenses
- Gender Identity, Intersex Conditions, and Variations

Bar Focus: Limits of anatomical findings; consent and identity issues

Module 10 – Medical Ethics & Clinical Trials Involving Human Subjects

Learning Units:

- Ethical Principles with Legal Force
- Clinical Trials and Human Subject Protection

Bar Focus: Informed consent; liability and ethical compliance

Module 11 – Medical Negligence: Standard of Care on Trial

Learning Units:

- Establishing Medical Negligence
- Medical Records and Expert Testimony

Bar Focus: Standard of care; role of expert evidence

Module 12 – Death: Medicine’s Final Evidence

Learning Units:

- Cause, Mechanism, and Manner of Death
- Autopsy Findings and Legal Interpretation

Bar Focus: Corpus delicti; resolving conflicting medical and testimonial evidence

Module 13 – Course Integration

Learning Units:

- Integration of Module Learnings
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V. Teaching–Learning Strategies

- Guided lectures
 - Case-based discussions
 - Bar-type hypotheticals
 - Structured medico-legal analysis
 - Practical exercises
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VI. Assessment and Grading

Component	Weight
Class Participation / Case Discussion	15%
Practical Exercises	15%
Mid-Terms Bar-Type Assessment	30%
Final Bar-Type Assessment	30%
Course Integration Assessment	10%

VII. References

- Philippine Supreme Court decisions (Lawphil / Supreme Court website)
 - Rules of Court (Evidence)
 - Standard texts on Legal Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence
 - Relevant special laws and ethical guidelines
 - Professor-prepared eBooks on the various modules
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VIII. Prepared By



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