

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Family Law
- **Code:** LLB17
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 2nd
- **Teaching Period:** Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course offers a structured introduction to family law as a distinct branch of private law, focusing on the legal regulation of family relationships, both personal and patrimonial. It examines the formation and dissolution of marriage and other forms of partnership, legal relations between spouses or partners, and the rights and duties of parents and children. Using Greek family law as a primary reference, the course explores issues such as matrimonial property regimes, divorce and its consequences, child custody, maintenance obligations, and adoption. Comparative insights from other European jurisdictions and selected common law systems provide a broader understanding of how legal traditions address family structures, gender roles, and changing social realities. Special emphasis is placed on the constitutional and human

rights dimensions of family life, as well as the growing influence of EU law and international conventions in shaping national family law frameworks.

3. Keywords

Marriage and Divorce, Parental Responsibility, Matrimonial Property, Child Custody, Comparative Family Law

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Identify** the main legal institutions and sources governing family relationships under Greek and comparative family law. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the legal rules applicable to marriage, cohabitation, divorce, parental responsibility, and child protection. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** family law norms to hypothetical scenarios involving personal status, custody, maintenance, or matrimonial property. (*Applying*)
4. **Analyse** the legal implications of family breakdown, including the distribution of parental duties and financial consequences. (*Analysing*)
5. **Evaluate** the influence of constitutional principles, human rights instruments, and comparative models on the development of modern family law. (*Evaluating*)

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context
- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism

- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **Foundations and Functions of Family Law in Private Legal Systems** – Exploring the legal concept of the family, public interest considerations, and constitutional underpinnings.
2. **Sources of Family Law: National, European, and International Dimensions** – The Greek Civil Code, constitutional principles, international conventions (e.g. Hague, ECHR), and EU family law instruments.
3. **Marriage and Civil Partnership: Formation, Validity, and Legal Effects** – Legal requirements for marriage and cohabitation agreements; rights and duties between spouses or partners.
4. **Matrimonial Property Regimes: Community, Separation, and Participation** – Legal and contractual arrangements governing property during and after marriage.
5. **Dissolution of Marriage and Legal Separation** – Grounds, procedures, and effects of divorce and separation in Greek and comparative law.
6. **Financial Consequences of Divorce: Maintenance and Property Adjustment** – Maintenance between former spouses, division of assets, and post-marital support.
7. **Parenthood and Filiation: Legal Recognition and Consequences** – Establishing legal parentage, presumptions of paternity, and assisted reproduction.
8. **Parental Responsibility and Custody** – Allocation of rights and duties concerning the person and property of the child.
9. **Child Maintenance and Support Obligations** – Determining, enforcing, and adjusting financial support for minor and dependent children.
10. **Adoption: Conditions, Procedure, and Legal Effects** – Legal framework for adoption under Greek law and selected comparative models.
11. **Child Protection and Public Intervention in Family Life** – Safeguarding the child's best interests through public law mechanisms and judicial oversight.
12. **Changing Family Structures and the Evolution of Family Law** – Addressing social change: same-sex partnerships, transnational families, and gender equality.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-Books
Androulidaki-Dimitriadi, I., & Poulou, E. (2021). Family and succession law in Greece (4th ed.). Kluwer Law International.

Antokolskaia, M., & Meeusen, J. (Eds.). (2006). Harmonisation of family law in Europe: A historical perspective: A tale of two millennia (1st ed.). Intersentia.

Boele-Woelki, K., Ferrand, F., González Beilfuss, C., Jänterä-Jareborg, M., Lowe, N., Martiny, D., & Pintens, W. (Eds.). (2007). International family law for the European Union: Principles of European family law regarding parental responsibilities (1st ed.). Intersentia.

Choudhry, S., & Herring, J. (2019). The Cambridge companion to comparative family law. Cambridge University Press.

Harris, L. J., Carbone, J. R., & Rebouch, R. (2023). *Family Law: Connected Ebook With Study Center (Aspen Casebook)*: : . <https://www.amazon.com/Family-Law-Connected-Center-Casebook/dp/154383888X>

Hodson, D. (2023). *The International Family Law Practice 2021-22 (e-book)* (6th ed.). Abe books. <https://www.abebooks.com/International-Family-Law-Practice-2021-22-6th/31946921950/bd>

O'Halloran, K. (2025). *Child Welfare and Rights: A Contemporary Family Law Analysisi* (e-book). Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Child-Welfare-and-Rights-A-Contemporary-Family-Law-Analysis/OHalloran/p/book/9781032820934>

Herring, J. (2025). *Family law* (12th ed.) (e-book). Pearson.

Morley, J. D. (2025). *International Family Law Practice (e-book)*. Thomson Reuters. <https://store.legal.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/products/fl-practice-v21-elements-of-a-civil-action-sub-30920843>

Stark, B., & Heaton, J. (2021). *Routledge Handbook of International Family Law - 1st Edition – Barbara (e-book)*. Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Handbook-of-International-Family-Law/Stark-Heaton/p/book/9781032093826>

Szeibert, O. (2018). *Developments in family law: Year by year I (2018)*. Eötvös University Press.

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law

EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC&LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85