

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Property and Succession Law
- **Code:** LLB9
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **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 comparative introduction to the fundamental principles of property and succession law, viewed through the lens of divergent legal traditions and their historical development. It explores how different legal systems conceptualise ownership, possession, and the transmission of wealth, core elements of private law that reflect broader cultural, social, and institutional structures. Students will examine the civil law tradition, focusing on the *numerus clausus* of real rights, the distinction between ownership and limited rights in rem, and the role of public registries, using Greek law as a primary reference point. In contrast, the common law treatment of estates, trusts, and equitable interests will be explored as a distinct paradigm for organising proprietary relations. The course also investigates succession law as a mechanism for managing

intergenerational transfer, addressing formal and informal wills, forced heirship, intestacy, and testamentary freedom in various systems. The curriculum encourages critical reflection on contemporary issues such as digital assets, cross-border inheritance, and the tension between individual autonomy and family solidarity. Transnational instruments and EU developments, including the Succession Regulation, are analysed to understand efforts at harmonisation and the challenges of legal pluralism in Europe.

3. Keywords

Ownership, Succession, Trusts and Estates, Comparative Property Law, Cross-Border Inheritance

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** the core concepts and categories of property and succession law in both civil and common law systems. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the structural differences between ownership regimes, limited real rights, and succession mechanisms across selected legal traditions. (*Understanding*)
3. **Apply** legal reasoning to hypothetical scenarios involving acquisition, transfer, or inheritance of property under national and cross-border conditions. (*Applying*)
4. **Compare and contrast** key doctrines such as testamentary freedom, forced heirship, and trust or other inheritance managing formulas across continental, common law, and mixed legal systems. (*Analysing*)
5. **Evaluate** current debates and reform efforts in property and succession law, including challenges posed by digital assets, cross-border estates, and EU harmonisation. (*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. **Concepts of Property: Ownership, Possession, and Legal Traditions** – Exploring how civil and common law systems structure rights in rem, including notions of title, dominium, and tenure.
2. **Typologies of Real Rights: Numerus Clausus and Limited Interests** – Analysing the scope, classification, and transferability of real rights under Greek, French, and German law.
3. **Acquisition of Ownership: Original and Derivative Modes** – Examining possession, prescription, sale, and registration across selected European systems.
4. **Property in Land: Registration, Title Systems, and Security Rights** – Comparing title registration, deed systems, and encumbrances such as mortgages and hypothecs.
5. **Movables, Intangibles, and Emerging Forms of Property** – Analysing property in movable goods, incorporeal rights, and digital or dematerialised assets.
6. **Public Law Limits on Ownership: Expropriation and Regulation** – Investigating constitutional and statutory constraints on the use and transfer of property.
7. **Introduction to Succession Law: Death, Continuity, and Legal Design** – Understanding the rationale and evolution of succession law in European legal traditions.
8. **Testate Succession: Wills, Formalities, and Testamentary Freedom** – Studying testamentary instruments, revocation, and limits on individual autonomy.
9. **Intestate Succession and Forced Heirship** – Comparing statutory schemes of intestacy and the protection of family members in civil law systems.

10. **Comparative Insights on Lifetime Transfers and Alternatives to Succession** – Analysing gifts inter vivos, fiduciary arrangements, and avoidance of succession procedures.
11. **Cross-Border Succession and EU Law** – Examining Regulation 650/2012, habitual residence, choice of law, and European Certificates of Succession.
12. **Contemporary Issues in Property and Succession Law** – Exploring digital legacies, vulnerable heirs, sustainability, and debates on property reform in Europe.

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

AJ van der Walt, & Pienaar, G. (2025). *Introduction to the Law of Property (e-book)* . Juta's property law library. <https://www.sherwoodbooks.co.za/product/ebook-introduction-to-the-law-of-property/>

Bariatti, S., Viarengo, I., & Villata, F. C. (Eds.). (2022). EU cross-border succession law (Elgar European Law and Practice) (e-book). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1628/rabelsz-2023-0074>

Chambers, R. (2025). *The Law of Property (e-book)* . University of Toronto Press. <https://utppublishing.com/doi/10.3138/9781552215630>

Gibb, Alex., & Gordon, A. B. . (2018). *Succession*. W. Green (e-book)/Thomson Reuters. <https://www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/en-gb/products>

Holdsworth, W. S., & Vickers, C. W. (2004). The law of succession: Testamentary and intestate. Lawbook Exchange.

Lehane, C. (2024). *Succession Law (e-book)* . Bloomsbury Professional.
<https://www.bloomsburyprofessional.com/ie/succession-law-9781526522269/>

Lawson, F. H., & Rudden, B. (2002a). *The law of property* (3rd rev. ed.). Oxford University Press.

Megarry, Robert., Wade, William., Dixon, Martin., Bignell, Janet., & Hopkins, Nick. (2024). *The law of real property (e-book)*. Sweet & Maxwell.

Serkin, Christopher. (2016). *The law of property (e-book)*. Foundation Press.

Sloan, B. (2020). *Borkowski's law of succession* (4th ed.). Oxford 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