# Corporation Law

## Prof. Giovanna Salvati

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff.***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce the principles regulating partnerships, and carry out an in-depth analysis of the legal aspects related to the constitution, the functioning, and the structural changes of limited companies. In particular, thanks to the adoption of a theoretical approach supported by the presentation of practical cases, it aims to explore corporate law and outline its most relevant phenomena, also from an economic and business perspective.

At the end of the course, students will be able to: know and understand corporate law, especially from the point of view of limited companies, in order to develop original ideas in a research context; carry out a critical analysis of the most relevant legal issues that companies have to face; develop their skills and manage the complexity of the subject, and form independent judgments based on a limited number of information; communicate, in a clear and coherent way, the conclusions they draw, and pursue their studies in this field.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*The corporate phenomenon*

- The company: types of legal entities and reality.

- Partnerships and corporations: formal, financial and organizational profiles.

- The guidelines at the basis of the reform of limited companies and the reform of business crisis.

*Joint-stock companies*

*Formal and financial structure*

* Constitution. Capital and contributions.
* Stocks: shareholding, shares and their circulation, treasury shares.
* Equity financial instruments. Bonds.

*The assembly*

* Definition and procedure. Representation. Conflicts of interest and ‘abuses’.
* Shareholders' agreements.
* Invalid resolutions.

*Administration and control*

* The traditional system: powers, duties and responsibilities of administrators, auditors and people in charge of accountancy.

- Two-tier and one-tier systems.

- External checks. Judicial check. Checks carried out by Consob (notes).

*Statutory modifications*

* Procedure.
* The right of withdrawal.
* Increases and decreases in share capital.

*Limited liability companies*

- Main features.

- Financial structure.

- Organizational structure.

*Limited partnership*

* Main features

*Company groups*

* Monitoring notion

- Management and co-ordination of companies.

*Extraordinary operations. Dissolution and liquidation*

- Transformation, mergers and separation.

- Causes of dissolution and liquidation procedures.

***READING LIST***

A.A.V.V., *Diritto delle società. Manuale breve*, Giuffrè, Milan, latest edition available (parts I-III).

or

M. Cian (edited by), *Diritto commerciale II*, Giappichelli, Torino, last edition available (section form Third to Sixth and Eighth)

In addition to one of the three textbooks.

C.M. De Iuliis, *Norme e Schemi di Diritto delle Società di Capitali*, Giappichelli, Turin, last edition.

N.B.: Students must use a Civil Code updated to 2020-21, among those on the market at the start of the course. It is suggested the use of Codice Civile Zanichelli, latest edition edited by G. de Nova.

A detailed syllabus and further study material will be made available online on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will utilize blended learning and will be 50% face-to-face lectures in class and 50% as distance learning online. Lectures will be interactive and will also include the study and analysis of practical legal case studies. Activities in distance learning will be taught through (asynchronous) video lessons and will include issues that will be discussed through practical and feedback-live (synchronous) webinars. The analytical programme of the course will be posted on Blackboard*.*

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A. *Ongoing assessment*

For students who opt for ongoing assessment: 50% of the assessment will be based on two individual written tests with open-ended questions, one of which will be completed in person during the course, details regrading the date and contect will be posted on Blackboard in the course students arear; 50% of the assessment will be based on a final written test composed of open-ended questions lasting one hour. In order to sit the the final test, students must have passed the tests during the course. Students must pass the final test (during one of the three examination calls after completion of the course) in order to pass the examination.

B. *Unified summative assessment*

For students who opt for unified summative assessment during an examination call, the examination is a written test composed of open-ended questions.

For all the different tests, assessment will consider the following: understanding and grasp of course issues; critical and arguing skills, the ability to make connections between different parts of the course; linguistic abilities.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Preliminary knowledge*

Basic knowledge of the following legal concepts is required:

*– The business*. The general concept of business. Company categories. The beginning and the end of the business. The attribution of the business activity. Business advertising. Business organization: internal collaborators, adequacy of the organisational structure, mandatory accounting entries. Company transfer. Business and company. Features. Competition between companies.

The above-mentioned topics can be further studied in G.F. Campobasso, *Diritto Commerciale. 1. Diritto dell’impresa*, Utet, Turin, latest edition available.

*– Corporations*. The concept of corporation: joint management, joint exercise of the business, capital endowment, specific goal of the company. Types of corporations. Assets partition, legal personality, subjectivity.

The above-mentioned legal topics can be further studied in G.F. Campobasso, Diritto Commerciale 2. Diritto delle società, Utet, Turin, latest edition available, Chapter1

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.