

FORENSIC MEDICINE	
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Course coordinator	Assistant Professor Boris Dumenčić, MD, PhD
Assistant/Associate	Assistant Professor Sanja Mandić, PhD Assistant Professor Vesna Horvat, PhD Elizabetha Matuzalem Marinović, MD, PhD
Study Programme	Integrated undergraduate and graduate university study of Medicine
Status of the course	Mandatory
Year of study, semester	6 th year, 11 th semester
ECTS	3
Workload (hours)	Lectures (20); Seminars (18); Exercises (12)
Expected number of students	70
COURSE DESCRIPTION	
Course objectives	
To teach students to recognize early and late signs of death and to determine the time, cause, and nature of death based on this knowledge. Define forensic autopsy, its rationale and purpose, as well as its legal framework. Interpret brain death from a legal perspective and for the purpose of explantation. Distinguish between the morphological characteristics of mechanical, physical, chemical, psychological, and nutritional injury. Classify physical injuries in accordance with the criminal law regulations of the Republic of Croatia. Understand the importance of medical documentation in the criminal-legal aspect. To teach students to collect biological samples for toxicological, pathohistological, and DNA analysis.	
Enrolment requirements and entry competencies	
Completed all exams from previous academic years.	
Learning outcomes at the Programme level	
1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2	
Learning outcomes (5-10)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the time, cause, and nature of death from the medical record of the deceased. 2. Determine the time, nature, and cause of death following a forensic autopsy. 3. Complete the coroner's documentation/records for mortality statistics. 4. Differentiate and correctly diagnose all types of physical injuries. 5. Classify physical injuries in accordance with the Criminal Code of the Republic of Croatia. 6. Rank the results of alcoholometric and toxicological analysis. 	
Course content	
<p>Lectures Medicine and legal science; criminal offenses in the field of medicine; thanatology; the method of examining a dead body and determining the nature, cause, and time of death. Morphological characteristics of mechanical, physical, chemical, nutritional, and psychological injuries. Classification of physical injuries; traffic trauma; forensic toxicology; fundamentals of criminology and identification. Illegal abortion and crimes against sexual freedom.</p> <p>Seminars Criminal legal characteristics of brain death and explantation; peculiarities of mechanical injuries to certain body regions; qualification of physical injuries; abortion from medical, legal, social, and spiritual aspects. DNA analysis; psychophysical characteristics of certain degrees of alcoholism.</p>	

Exercises

Forensic autopsy; early signs of death; late signs of death; determining the time of death; taking biological fluids and swabs from a dead body; the influence of pre-existing pathological changes on a violent death – examples from practice; the impact position of a pedestrian in the event of a passenger car collision (sketch and photos of a traffic accident, video simulation of all types of collisions between a passenger car and a pedestrian).

Mode of teaching

Lectures; Seminars; Exercises

Student obligations

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, as well as to take all the examinations. However, they are allowed for excused absences, totaling 30% of all classes. If there is an exercise a student hasn't done, it needs to be completed and graded additionally.

Monitoring student work (alignment of learning outcomes, teaching methods, and grading)

Teaching activity	ECTS	Learning outcome	Student activity	Assessment methods	Grade points	
					Min.	Max.
Class attendance	0,5	1-6	Class attendance;	Evidence sheet;	2	10
Exercises	0,5	1-6	Attendance and active participation in exercises	Exercise logbook	15	20
Final exam	2	1-6	Preparation for the oral exam	Oral exam	30	70
Total	3				50	100

Evaluation of the final exam:

Student answer	Grade points
The answer meets the minimum criteria	30.0
The average answer with noticeable errors	50.0
The very good answer with minor errors	60.0
The exceptional answer	70.0

Calculation of final grade:

Based on the total sum of the points awarded during the course and the final exam, the final grade is determined according to the following distribution:

A – excellent (5): 80-100 grade points; B – very good (4): 70-79,99 grade points; C – good (3): 60-69,99 grade points; D – sufficient (2): 50-59,99 grade points

Required reading (available in the library and through other media)

Title	Number of copies in the library	Availability through other media
1. Zečević D. et al. Sudska medicina i deontologija, 5., obnovljeno i dopunjeno izdanje, Medicinska naklada, Zagreb 2018.	10	

2. Zečević D., Škavić J. Osnove sudske medicine za pravnike, Zagreb: Barbat, 1996.	1	
3. Reinhard B. Dettermeyer. Forensic Hystopathology. Springer 2011.	0	
Additional reading		
Course evaluation procedures		
Anonymous, quantitative, standardized student survey providing feedback on the course as well as on the work of course coordinators and their assistants/associates is being conducted by the QA Office of the Faculty of Medicine Osijek.		
Note /Other		
E-learning does not count towards course contact hours, but is being used in teaching and comprises links to various web pages, as well as video and audio materials available on web pages.		