

Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

**Curriculum  
2022/2023**

For course

**Communication and Quality of Interpersonal  
Relationships**

Study program: **Medical Studies in English (R)** (elective)  
University integrated undergraduate and graduate study  
Department: **Department of Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine**  
Course coordinator: **naslovna prof. dr. sc. Šendula-Jengiđ Vesna, dr.med.**

Year of study: **1**  
ECTS: **1.5**  
Incentive ECTS: **0 (0.00%)**  
Foreign language: **Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

## Course information:

During this course the students shall be familiarized with the basic terms from theory of communication and communication skills. They will gain insight in connecting data from various fields of research, medicine psychology, general psychiatry, pre-clinical sciences and neuroscience, and that relate to the understanding of the origin and development of personality through interactive relationships with other people. This course shall enable student to acquire more easily communication skills, fundamentals of team work, inter-student cooperation and communication on various levels.

Further on, the student shall be introduced to the fundamentals of analytical theories which are significant in the field of communication, such as the attachment theory and attachment schemes, i.e. implicit memories based on early experiences of safety and danger, more pronounced in stressful situations because of the central role of attachment in the regulation of affect. Disorganized attachment holds a central place in many forms of psychopathology. Preservation of self-respect is the best protection against narcissistic vulnerability. The concepts of the real and false self shall also be discussed.

Students shall be prepared for the clinical contact with patient, they will gain skills and knowledge about the listening of patient's (and other people's) narration, about the left hemisphere – the interpreter and the right hemisphere which communicates via facial expression, body language, emotion. Narration requires semantic processing of the left hemisphere to be integrated with the emotional networks of the right hemisphere. The interrelationship between verbal (narrative) and non verbal (emotional) communication shall also be discussed as well as the distortions introduced by defences.

Based on the given data the students shall gain insight into the meaning of specific types of communication and in making hypotheses about how they can affect the other person. The level of understanding in communication shall be increased.

The students shall be introduced to different elements and types of communication essential for a health care provider, such as dysfunctional communication, self-disclosure, communication in crisis, reflection and interpretation, family dynamics and communication with significant others etc.

During the course the students shall learn about the theories about the human psychological development, development of neuroscience and the places of direct implementation of scientific methods and procedures in everyday communication, work with the patients and team/group communication.

This course shall briefly discuss ethics in communication which will be dealt with in more depth in the course Medical ethics.

Evaluation of the achieved level and quality of interpersonal relations in group shall be done at the beginning and the end of the work.

## List of assigned reading:

1. Wood, J. T. (2009) *Interpersonal Communication: Everyday Encounters*. Boston: Wadsworth Publishing Company
2. Trenholm, S. & Jensen, A. (2007) *Interpersonal Communication*. New York : Oxford University Press
3. Coates, G.T. (2009) *Notes on Communication: A few thoughts about the way we interact with the people we meet*. Free e-book from [www.wanterfall.com](http://www.wanterfall.com)
4. Reardon, K. (1988) *Interpersonalna komunikacija – gdje se misli susreću*. Zagreb : Alinea
5. Knapp, M.L., Hall, J.A. (2010) *Neverbalna komunikacija u ljudskoj interakciji*. Jastrebarsko : Naklada Slap

## List of optional reading:

1. Šegota I. i sur. (2010) *Gluhi i znakovno medicinsko nazivlje. Kako komunicirati s gluhim pacijentom*. Zagreb : Medicinska naklada
2. Klain E., Gregurek R. i sur. (2007) *Grupna psihoterapija za medicinske sestre i tehničare*. Zagreb : Medicinska naklada
3. Bodiroga-Vukobrat, N., Frančisković, T., Pernar, M. (ur.) (2006) *Mobbing*. Rijeka : Društvo psihologa PGŽ
4. Šendula-Jengiđ, Vesna (ur.) *Unaprjeđenje kvalitete rada u domovima za stare i nemoćne - praktikum za djelatnike*. Rab: Psihijatrijska bolnica Rab, 2009.
5. Bošković, G., Šendula-Jengiđ, V. Mental Health as Eudaimonic Well-Being? (Editorial) *Psychiatria Danubina*, 20 (2008) 4: 452-455.

## Curriculum:

**Student obligations:**

Attendance of lectures and seminars (minimum 80%).

**Exam (exam taking, description of the written/oral/practical part of the exam, point distribution, grading criteria):**

Evaluation will be performed according to the Legal Act of Evaluation of University of Rijeka and of School of Medicine. Students' performance will be evaluated through entire duration of the course (50% of the evaluation) as well as on the final exam (50% of the evaluation).

| Evaluation of student's work |     |                           |     |               |     |                |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|
| Course attendance            | 5%  | Activity/Participation    | 10% | Seminar paper | 35% | Experimental v |
| Written exam                 | 50% | Oral exam                 |     | Essay         |     | Research       |
| Project                      |     | Sustained knowledge check |     | Report        |     | Practice       |
| Portfolio                    |     |                           |     |               |     |                |

**Other notes (related to the course) important for students:**

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**COURSE HOURS 2022/2023**

Communication and Quality of Interpersonal Relationships

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**List of lectures, seminars and practicals:****EXAM DATES (final exam):**

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