Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

Curriculum
2025/2026

For course

Medical English II

Study program:	**Medical Studies in English (R)** University integrated undergraduate and graduate study
Department:	**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in Medicine**
Course coordinator:	**Smiljanić Siniša**
Year of study:	**2**
ECTS:	**1**
Incentive ECTS:	**0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language:	**Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

Course information:

Medical English is a compulsory course in the second year of Medical Studies in English. It includes 20 hours of seminars (**1 ECTS**).

The course **aims** to provide students with support in navigating through communicative and grammatical structures typical of medical language. By reading professional texts at an advanced level, students will become more familiar with the specifics of (medical) academic language. Additional written assignments and short quizzes during the semester will encourage the development of the ability to summarize, write, and communicate data and information.

Course content: Critical reading of medical texts with follow-up reading comprehension and vocabulary exercises; British and American spelling and recognition of grammatically (in)correct sentences; discussions on a given topic; writing summaries and short critical reviews on a given topic; individual work, pair work, research work. Students' progress is continuously monitored through short quizzes, shorter written assignments, and a final test. Students will receive constructive individual and group feedback on their progress. The course is considered passed after all written assignments have been completed (no later than the final seminar in week 10), the student participated in at least 70% of classes, and the final test has been passed.

Learning outcomes:

• understand professional and scientific texts, identify key ideas and specific information

• distinguish and apply different language registers (formal/informal expression)

• recognize grammatical and lexical structures typical of medical language in speech and writing

• apply newly acquired grammatical structures and medical terminology in written and oral expression

List of assigned reading:

Handouts available on Merlin.

Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary,

W.B. Saunders Company Merriam-Webster online dictionary

List of optional reading:

Chabner, D.-E. 2017. The Language of Medicine. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier.

Shiland, B. J. 2018. Medical Terminology & Anatomy for Coding. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier.

Books, e-books, articles, Internet pages, and other sources relevant for the topic of the oral presentation

Curriculum:

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

S1. Introduction / Hair today, gone tomorrow – text analysis and reading comprehension

The students are introduced to the aims, contents, and requirements of the course. The students select their presentation topic.

Hair today, gone tomorrow – text analysis and reading comprehension

Summarize the text; explain key terms; infer the meaning of phrasal verbs from the context; make judgments regarding formal and informal language registers; recognize adjectives, adverbs, and the differences between them.

S2. Is There a Link Between Your Headache and Your Toothache? – text analysis and reading comprehension

recognize the meaning of medical terms based on the word root, prefix, and suffix; connect adjectives expressing pain with their explanations; give examples of verbs that combine with nouns pain, disease, cavity, tooth, problem.

S3. Why Handwashing - text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning ourcomes: come up with synonyms and antonyms for key expressions from the text; apply the rules of classical plural formation; define medical terms; argue the necessity of maintaining hand hygiene; write using American spelling.

S4. Scientists make breakthrough discovery of new therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's - text analysis and reading comprehension

clarify key expressions from the text; form antonyms; form adjectives; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the suggested answers (gap filling); write a summary using British spelling.

S5. Arthritis - text analysis and reading comprehension

offer a medical term from the text based on its definition; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression that defines the medical condition based on the answers offered (gap filling); connect a medical term with its explanation; connect medical conditions that affect the elderly population and their explanations (Alzheimer's disease, presbyopia, otosclerosis, cataract, Parkinson's disease, glaucoma); correct grammatically incorrect sentences.

S6. Climate crisis seriously damaging human health – text analysis and reading comprehension

clarify key expressions from the text; form synonyms and antonyms; form verbs; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression that defines the medical conditin (gap filling); write a summary using correlative conjunctions (both...and, not only...but also, either...or, neither...nor).

S7. A $350 toilet powered by worms may be the ingenious future of sanitation – text analysis and reading comprehension

summarize the text; clarify key expressions from the text; connect collocation components; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression (gap filling); spot mistakes and correct incorrect parts of sentences.

S8. Obesity – text analysis and reading comprehension

offer a definition of key terms from the text; form synonyms; analyze the context and use the modified form of the offered expression (gap filling); fill in the blanks using the negative prefix of the offered noun, verb or adjective; analyze the context, select appropriate expressions and extract three unnecessary expressions; summarize the text in writing using dependent conjunctions (however, therefore, furthermore, while, although, in order to/in order that).

S9. Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)

come up with professional terms that contain the base "lateral"; clarify key expressions from the text; form antonyms from the offered expressions; analyze the context, select appropriate expressions; match the offered expression with its synonym; replace technical medical terms with their synonyms from general English.

S10. Test

Test

Student obligations:

Students must regularly attend seminars (minimum 70%), actively participate in classes, submit all written assignments on time, and pass the final test. If a student cannot complete a particular assignment by the agreed deadline and/or take the final test for justified reasons (e.g., in case of illness), they must inform the instructor at least 1 day in advance.

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

The course ends with a test on a pass/fail basis, which is taken on the last day of the course. After completing all course requirements and participating in at least 70% of seminars, the students will receive a passing grade.

The test is considered passed when at least 50% of the total number of points is obtained.

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

All updates, weekly class materials, and test results will be available to students on the Merlin platform.
In order to promote academic integrity, all written work will be checked in the Turnitin plagiarism system and the AI Content Detector software to check for AI-generated content.

COURSE HOURS 2025/2026

Medical English II

Seminars (Place and time or group)
02.03.2026
S1. Introduction / Hair today, gone tomorrow – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
09.03.2026
S2. Is There a Link Between Your Headache and Your Toothache? – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P08 (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
16.03.2026
S3. Why Handwashing - text analysis and reading comprehension: • P08 (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
23.03.2026
S7. A $350 toilet powered by worms may be the ingenious future of sanitation – text analysis and reading comprehension: • ONLINE (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
30.03.2026
S4. Scientists make breakthrough discovery of new therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's - text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
09.04.2026
S8. Obesity – text analysis and reading comprehension: • ONLINE (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
13.04.2026
S6. Climate crisis seriously damaging human health – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
20.04.2026

S5. Arthritis - text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (15:00 - 17:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
27.04.2026
S9. Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS): • v (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
04.05.2026
S10. Test: • P15 - TOWN HALL (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_349
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
S1. Introduction / Hair today, gone tomorrow – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S2. Is There a Link Between Your Headache and Your Toothache? – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P08
S3. Why Handwashing - text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P08
S4. Scientists make breakthrough discovery of new therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's - text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S5. Arthritis - text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S6. Climate crisis seriously damaging human health – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S7. A $350 toilet powered by worms may be the ingenious future of sanitation – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S8. Obesity – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S9. Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)	2	v
S10. Test	2	P15 - TOWN HALL

EXAM DATES (final exam):

1.	26.06.2026.
2.	15.07.2026.
3.	09.09.2026.