Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

Curriculum
2025/2026

For course

Medical English III

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:	**3**
ECTS:	**1**
Incentive ECTS:	**0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language:	**Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

Course information:

Medical English III is a compulsory course in the third year of the study of Medicine in English. It includes 20 hours of seminars (**1 ECTS**).

The aim of the course is to assist the students in improving their communicative competence and developing academic writing skills. Active participation in classes, completion of written assignments, and preparation of a seminar paper will contribute to improving language fluency and writing skills and developing the ability to find, summarize, write, and present data and information.

Course content: Critical reading of medical texts with accompanying reading comprehension exercises at an advanced level, which will serve as a starting point for improving vocabulary relevant to the development of communication competence and key grammatical structures and spelling specificities of American and British English; individual work; pair work. Students' progress is continuously monitored through short quizzes and a final test. Students will receive constructive individual and group feedback on their progress. The course is considered passed after completing all written assignments (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

• spot grammatically and orthographically incorrect parts of sentences and be able to offer the correct solution

• apply the rules of British and American spelling

• apply grammatical and lexical structures typical of medical language in writing

Course structure:

The course is organized through 20 hours of seminars, distributed continuously for 10 weeks. It is based on students' active participation in the seminars, written assignments, and the final test.

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.
Books, e-books, articles, Internet pages, and other sources relevant to the topic of the oral presentation and written assignments.

Curriculum:

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

S1. Introduction / Receiving treatment – text analysis and reading comprehension

The students are introduced to the aims, contents, and requirements of the course.

Receiving treatment – text analysis and reading comprehension
Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key medical terms; analyze the context and fill in the gap with the appropriate word/phrasal verb (gap filling); form nouns/classical plural/collocations; compare the offered medical terms and choose the contextually correct ones; spot mistakes and correct syntactically incorrect parts of sentences; recognize British/American spelling when writing medical terms.

S2. Fears and phobias – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; offer synonyms and antonyms of key expressions from the text; define types of phobias; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); complete the text with the modified form of the offered expressions; paraphrase sentences; use a prepositional phrase in the correct context.

S3. Effective remedies and treatments

Form nouns; form synonyms and antonyms; analyze the context and use the correct preposition; use a modified form of the offered expression (gap filling); match the given medical term with the corresponding verb; spot mistakes and correct misspelled parts of sentences; paraphrase sentences; apply the rules of active/passive voice.

S4. Aging – text analysis and reading comprehension

Summarize the text; associate common disorders associated with Hutchinson-Gilford syndrome (progeria) with the appropriate medical term; recognize the meaning of prefixes that indicate a place/position; form adjectives; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); paraphrase sentences using correlative conjunctions.

S5. Psoriatic arthritis – text analysis and reading comprehension

Compare expressions and choose the odd one out; recognize the meaning of the medical term (inflammation) based on the root base provided; spot mistakes and correct misspelled parts of sentences; connect the type of arthritis with its definition (osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, lupus, gout); form adjectives using a negative prefix; paraphrase sentences.

S6. Language and communication – text analysis and reading comprehension

Summarize the text; offer synonyms and antonyms of key terms; form adjectives; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); come up with suitable prepositions that pair with the offered verbs; correct grammatically and spelling incorrect sentences; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); paraphrase sentences using adverbs; complete the sentences with the appropriate preposition.

S7. Stress – text analysis and reading comprehension

Analyze the context and offer clarification of marked expressions; offer synonymous expressions with phrases formed from the noun "mind"; recognize the meaning of phrases formed from the nouns "mind", "brain" and "word" and use them in the correct context; compare expressions and choose the odd one out (adjectives); form verbs from given nouns; replace incorrect expressions with correct ones; apply the rules of writing compound nouns.

S8. Sports injuries, risk-taking, and danger – text analysis and reading comprehension

Summarize descriptions of injuries (knee injuries, sprains and strains, rotator cuff injuries, fractures, dislocations); explain key terms; form nouns from adjectives denoting a quality or characteristic; form verbs with the suffix -EN; form adverbs; correct grammatically and spelling incorrect sentences; complete the text with a modified form of the offered expression; form collocations using "risk" and "danger"; paraphrase sentences.

S9. Treatment and healing – text analysis and reading comprehension

Define key terms: form opposites; analyze the context and choose the correct medical term for the condition/disease;

analyze the context and choose several possible answers; paraphrase sentences using phrasal verbs: paraphrase sentences using the passive voice.

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 III

Seminars (Place and time or group)
05.03.2026
S1. Introduction / Receiving treatment – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P07 (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
12.03.2026
S2. Fears and phobias – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P08 (11:00 - 13:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
18.03.2026
S3. Effective remedies and treatments: • P08 (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
25.03.2026
S4. Aging – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P07 (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
01.04.2026
S5. Psoriatic arthritis – text analysis and reading comprehension: • ONLINE (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
10.04.2026
S6. Language and communication – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P07 (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
15.04.2026
S7. Stress – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P02 (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ○ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
22.04.2026

S8. Sports injuries, risk-taking, and danger – text analysis and reading comprehension: • Z4 (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
29.04.2026
S9. Treatment and healing – text analysis and reading comprehension: • v (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
07.05.2026
S10. Test: • Z4 (10:00 - 12:00) [3314]   ◦ MEI_374
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
S1. Introduction / Receiving treatment – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P07
S2. Fears and phobias – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P08
S3. Effective remedies and treatments	2	P08
S4. Aging – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P07
S5. Psoriatic arthritis – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S6. Language and communication – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P07
S7. Stress – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P02
S8. Sports injuries, risk-taking, and danger – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	Z4
S9. Treatment and healing – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	v
S10. Test	2	Z4

EXAM DATES (final exam):

1.	23.06.2026.
2.	10.07.2026.
3.	09.09.2026.