Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

Curriculum
2025/2026

For course

Medical English IV

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:	**4**
ECTS:	**1**
Incentive ECTS:	**0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language:	**Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

Course information:

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

The aim of the course is twofold: to assist the students in improving their communicative competence (with an emphasis on medical terminology) and to improve their academic writing skills. Active participation in classes, competition of written assignments, and oral presentations will contribute to the improvement of language fluency and writing skills and the development of 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; individual work, work in pairs; creative writing. 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 grammatical and lexical structures typical of medical language in preparing a presentation
- communicate new knowledge fluently and accurately

Course structure:

The course is organized through 20 hours of seminars. It is distributed continuously for 10 weeks.

List of assigned reading:

Handouts available on Merlin.

List of optional reading:

Curriculum:

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

S1. Introduction / Prevention of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key terms; recognize British/American spelling; form nouns/adjectives; analyze the context and fill in the gap with the appropriate word (gap filling); form collocations; paraphrase sentences; use the correct article given the context.

S2 What is mental health? – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation

Learning outcomes: offer synonyms based on the read text; offer a medical term based on the definition offered; analyze the context and form adjectives and nouns; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression (gap filling); spot mistakes and correct misspelled parts of sentences; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S3. The nocebo effect: Placebo's evil twin – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: recognize key expressions from the text based on their default explanation; match the broken parts of the sentences according to meaning; complete the text with verbs in the appropriate tense (Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect Simple or Continuous); paraphrase the sentences using the given adverbs; match formal and informal medical terms; distinguish the use of gerunds and infinitives; paraphrase sentences.

S4. Know your medicines – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; connect given expressions with their explanations; offer an answer based on the read text; spot mistakes and correct misspelled parts of sentences; complete the text with verbs in the appropriate tense (Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect Simple or Continuous); form adjectives using a negative prefix; analyze the context and form adjectives and nouns based on the offered word; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S5. Sugar, Heart Disease and Cancer: An unsavory story of wealth versus health – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; analyze the context of given terms and offer their explanation; form the plural of medical terms from the text; match the phrasal verb with the definition; paraphrase sentences using the given word; supplement the text with a modified form of the offered expression; offer the correct preposition to pair with the verb.

S6. Why do we sleep? – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; offer synonyms and antonyms of key terms; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the answers provided; spot mistakes and correct misspelled parts of sentences; match medical terms with their definitions; form collocations with the verbs "keep" and "hold"; form adjectives with the help of negative prefix; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S7. Growing old – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation

Learning outcomes: analyze the context and offer clarification of marked expressions; come up with medical terms based on the provided definitions; analyze the context and form adjectives and nouns; form active sentences; complete the sentences with expressions that describe breathing; form compounds; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S8. Parenting in the 21st century – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation

Learning outcomes: offer answers to questions based on the read text; come up with suitable suggestions; form antonyms; explain phrases; form nouns based on the offered expressions; analyze context and form phrases using expressions for body parts; recognize the odd one out among the offered expressions; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S9. Communication – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation

Learning outcomes: define key terms: form adjectives/nouns; analyze the context and choose the correct answer (gap filling); match informal expressions; analyze the context and fill in the blanks with the modified form of the verb;

analyze the context and fill in the gaps with a modified form of the given word; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic.

S10. Test

Studenti usmeno izlažu seminarski rad.

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 IV

Seminars (Place and time or group)
30.03.2026
S1. Introduction / Prevention of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (15:00 - 17:00) [3314]   ○ ME-IV
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
03.04.2026
S4. Know your medicines – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation: • ONLINE (15:00 - 17:00) [3314]   ○ ME-IV
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
17.04.2026

S2 What is mental health? – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation:
• P02 (10:00 - 12:00) [3314]
  ○ ME-IV
 	
S5. Sugar, Heart Disease and Cancer: An unsavory story of wealth versus health – text analysis and reading comprehension:
• ONLINE (12:00 - 14:00) [3314]
  ○ ME-IV

Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
21.04.2026

S8. Parenting in the 21st century – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation:
• ONLINE (12:00 - 14:00) [3314]
  ○ ME-IV
 	
S6. Why do we sleep? – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation:
• ONLINE (14:00 - 16:00) [3314]
  ○ ME-IV

Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
22.04.2026
S7. Growing old – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation: • ONLINE (15:00 - 17:00) [3314]   ○ ME-IV
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
08.05.2026
S3. The nocebo effect: Placebo's evil twin – text analysis and reading comprehension: • Z6 (08:00 - 10:00) [3314]   ○ ME-IV
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
12.05.2026

S9. Communication – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation: • Z7 (17:00 - 19:00) [3314]   ○ ME-IV
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
15.05.2026
S10. Test: • P07 (12:30 - 14:30) [3314]   ○ ME-IV
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
S1. Introduction / Prevention of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S2 What is mental health? – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation	2	P02
S3. The nocebo effect: Placebo's evil twin – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	Z6
S4. Know your medicines – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation	2	ONLINE
S5. Sugar, Heart Disease and Cancer: An unsavory story of wealth versus health – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S6. Why do we sleep? – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation	2	ONLINE
S7. Growing old – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation	2	ONLINE
S8. Parenting in the 21st century – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation	2	ONLINE
S9. Communication – text analysis and reading comprehension; oral presentation	2	Z7
S10. Test	2	P07

EXAM DATES (final exam):

1.	24.04.2026.
2.	16.06.2026.
3.	02.07.2026.
4.	04.09.2026.
5.	18.09.2026.