Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

Curriculum
2025/2026

For course

From Philosophy to Ethics of Body

Study program:	**Medical Studies in English (R)** (elective) University integrated undergraduate and graduate study
Department:	**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in Medicine**
Course coordinator:	**izv.prof. dr. sc. Mijatović Franjo**
Year of study:	**1**
ECTS:	**1.5**
Incentive ECTS:	**0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language:	**Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

Course information:

Introduction; The body in ethical, social and historical consideration of medicine; Mind-body dualism; Repression of body; Embodied ethics; Care for bodily individuality; The body in bioethics; Biomedicine and moral agency in a complex world; Various normative perspectives of the body; Respect for the bodily unavailability of the Other; FInal

List of assigned reading:

1. Agamben, G., *Homo Sacer; Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, Stanford University Press, 1998.
2. Descartes, R., *Discourse on Method and Meditations of First Philosophy*, Hacket Publishing Company, 1999.
3. Kant, I., *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Cambridge University Press, 1998.
4. Beauchamp, T. L.,/ Childress, J. F., *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (seventh edition), Oxford University Press, New York, [1979] 2013.
5. Campbell, A. V., *The Body in Bioethics,* Routledge-Cavendish, London, 2009.
6. Lysaught T: *Social Theories of the Body. Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Edited by: Reich WT. 1996, 1: 300-305. Google Scholar
7. Leder D: *The absent body*. 1990, Chicago/London, University of Chicago Press, Google Scholar
8. Shildrick M: *Beyond the body of bioethics. Challenging the conventions. Ethics of the body*. Edited by: Shildrick M, Mykitiuk R. 2005, 1-28. Cambridge, Mass; London, The MIT Press, Google Scholar
9. Shildrick M, Mykitiuk R: *Ethics of the body. Postconventional challenges*. 2005, Cambridge Mass; London , MIT Press, Google Scholar

List of optional reading:

1. Featherstone, M.. „Body, image and affect in consumer culture“,: *Body & Society, 16(1):* 193–221, 2010 https://doi.org/10.1177/1357034X09354357
2. Haraway, D. “The Biopolitics of Postmodern Bodies: Determinations of Self in Immune System Discourse. Differences”: *A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. 1989, 1 (1): 3-43.https://doi.org/10.1177/1357034X14551843
3. Foucault, M., *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archeology of Medical Perception*. 1976, New York Google Scholar
4. Joralemon D., “Organ Wars: The Battle for Body Parts.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly.* 1995, 9 (3): 335-356. 10.1525/maq.1995.9.3.02a00040 Article Google Scholar
5. Sharp L. A., “Organ Transplantation as a Transformative Experience: Anthropological Insights into the Restructuring of the Self.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly, New Series*. 1995, 9 (3): 357-389. 10.1525/maq.1995.9.3.02a00050. 10.1525/maq.1995.9.3.02a00050 Article Google Scholar
6. Gert B., *The Definition of Morality.* 2005, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Google Scholar
7. Shusterman R., *Performing Life*. 2000, Ithaca, NY , Cornell University Press, Google Scholar

Curriculum:

Lectures list (with titles and explanation):

Body in Ethical, Social, Historical and Medical Perspectives

Identify and explain the main ethical questions that arise in philosophical, social, historical, and medical considerations regarding the human body, its vulnerability, and its dignity.

Mind-Body Dualism

Explain the relationship between the mind and the body, interpret the history of the mind-body relationship, state reasons for respecting the unity of mind and body, and promote a unified view of humanity.

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

Embodied Ethics

Explain the concept of embodiment, differentiate types of vulnerabilities of the human body, take necessary measures to prevent potential violations of bodily ethics in the work environment and surroundings.

Care for Bodily Individuality

Analyze the dominant role of medicine in relation to the human body, argue for an interdisciplinary approach towards the human being and their body, and compare attitudes towards the individual in various medical and philosophical paradigms.

Biomedicine and Moral Action in a Complex World

Recognize the moral issues surrounding biomedical advancements, interpret the biomedical possibilities that have influenced the emergence of contemporary moral theories concerning the body, and describe approaches to resolving moral issues from the perspective of medical students' practice.

Diverse Normative Practices of the Body

Identify deontological, consequentialist, and virtue theories, distinguish between the methodologies of these theories, apply them in resolving cases from medical students' practice, and consider the impact of this application on the future physician's relationship with the patient as a bodily being.

Respecting the Bodily Inaccessibility of the Other

Recognize the sanctity and uniqueness of the human body, highlight the legal dimension of the Other's identity, analyze the ethical standardization of sanctity in medicine, examine the content of inaccessibility and unknowability of the Other, recognize and define limited knowledge of the Other, and apply the directives of the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology.

Student Presentations/Concluding Lecture

Each student independently presents their work to the entire group, with a focus on evaluating presentation elements. Highlight the necessary measures to prevent potential violations of bodily ethics in the work environment and setting.

Student obligations:

Regular attendance of lectures / workshops; 2. Activity in lectures and workshops; 3. Final exam. During the course of studies, according to lecturer's instructions, students will have to develop and defend their paper (in the form of discussion), based on lectures, practical work and knowledge acquired. A particular attention will be paid to the student's ability to use the acquired knowledge in their work and analysis of the selected topic (problem). In addition, students must prepare a presentation that would reflect a freely chosen question from the area of from philosophy to ethics of body. Finally, students will take an exam from philosophy to the ethics of body. Assessment is carried out in accordance with the Rules of Assessment of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka: attendance is 10 (%), presentation of seminar paper 40 (%), and final written essay 50 (%).

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

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

-

COURSE HOURS 2025/2026

From Philosophy to Ethics of Body

Lectures (Place and time or group)	**Seminars** (Place and time or group)

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

LECTURES (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
Body in Ethical, Social, Historical and Medical Perspectives	3	
Mind-Body Dualism	2	

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
Embodied Ethics	3	
Care for Bodily Individuality	3	
Biomedicine and Moral Action in a Complex World	3	
Diverse Normative Practices of the Body	4	
Respecting the Bodily Inaccessibility of the Other	4	
Student Presentations/Concluding Lecture	4	

EXAM DATES (final exam):