



University of Rijeka
Faculty of Dental Medicine
Course: Gerontology
Leader: Full Professor, Ph.D. Sunčana Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
Department: Department of prosthodontics
Study: University integrated undergraduate and graduate study Dental Medicine
Year of study: 5th year
Academic year: 2025/2026.

SYLLABUS

Course description (a brief description of the course, general instructions, where and in what form the lessons are organized, necessary equipment, instructions for attendance and preparation for classes, student obligations, etc.):

Head of course:

Associate Professor, Ph.D. Sunčana Simonić-Kocijan,
Department of Dental Prosthetics
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The course Dental Medicine of the Elderly is a mandatory course in the fifth year of the Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate University Study Dental Medicine and consists of 5 hours of lectures and 10 hours of seminars, a total of 15 hours (1 ECTS). The course is held in the premises of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Rijeka. It is possible to hold part of the classes (up to 40%) online.

Goal:

Getting to know the physiology and medical aspects of aging and the health of the elderly population. Acquiring knowledge about dental medicine with a special emphasis on the functionally dependent group of the elderly population. The ability to provide dental-medical health care and patient care in nursing homes and homes, as well as the treatment of somatically and mentally handicapped elderly people. Through theoretical classes, provide the knowledge necessary to perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the elderly population, with the consultation of the patient's doctor of medicine and doctors of dental medicine of other specialties.

The content of the course is as follows:

Physiology of aging from the molecular level to the whole organism. Medical aspects of aging and the health of the elderly population - the basics of the most common diseases. Getting to know the changes and diseases of hard and soft oral tissues and specifics in approach, diagnosis, treatment plan and their therapy. Gaining knowledge about the possibilities and peculiarities of oral and maxillofacial surgery, dental prosthetics, oral medicine, periodontology, dental



implantology, dental pathology and endodontics in this population with reference to pharmacological, psychiatric, somatic and psychosocial problems.

Conducting classes:

Teaching is conducted in the form of lectures and seminars. The expected duration of classes is one semester and one hour per week. The students are obliged to make the seminars in the form of Power Point presentations and present them in front of the teacher and colleagues. In the same way, teachers discuss with students the specifics of a particular topic of a lecture or seminar. During the same, teachers will continuously assess their knowledge. At the end of the class, there will be a written test as a final exam. By completing all teaching activities and taking the mandatory written exam (final exam), the student earns 1 ECTS point.

Assigned reading:

Čatović A. Odabrana poglavlja iz gerontostomatologije. Stomatološki fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, Zagreb, 2004.

Lectures
Seminars

Optional/additional reading:

Čatović A i suradnici. Dentalna medicina starije dobi u praksi. Zagreb, 2018.

Holm-Pederson P, Loe H. Textbook of geriatric dentistry. Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1986.

COURSE TEACHING PLAN:

The list of lectures (with topics and descriptions):

P1. Introduction to dental medicine in the elderly

Learning outcomes:

Explain historical facts related to dental medicine in the elderly.

P2. Oral medicine for the elderly

Learning outcomes:

Recognize the most frequent changes in the oral cavity and diseases of the oral cavity, especially in elderly people.

Define their therapy.

P3. Periodontal diseases in old age

Learning outcomes:

Describe periodontal problems in elderly people.

Define the causes of their occurrence and know how to choose an adequate periodontal procedure.

P4. Fixed prosthodontic in the elderly

Learning outcomes:

Describe the prosthetic problem of an elderly person.

Recognize the problem with possible fixed prosthetic therapy.

Define fixed prosthetic work.

P5. Removable prosthodontic in the elderly



Learning outcomes:

Explain the prosthetic problem of an elderly person.

Recognize the problem with dentures. Define removable dentures.

The list of seminars with descriptions:

S1 Changes and diseases of hard dental tissues in elderly people Learning outcomes:
Distinguish the specifics of prevention and therapy, as well as changes and diseases of hard dental tissues in people of advanced age.

S2. Endodontic and pulpal changes and diseases

Learning outcomes:

Differentiate changes and diseases of the dental pulp in elderly people.

To define the therapy of dental pulp changes and diseases in elderly people.

S3. Physiology of elderly people

Learning outcomes:

Describe aging and the physiology of aging.

To analyze the physiological changes of the stomatognathic system of elderly people.

S4. General diseases of elderly people Learning outcomes:

List the most common general diseases and disorders in elderly people.

Know how to connect a disease or disorder with an adequate medicine.

define the therapy of the same.

S5. Psychiatry of elderly people

Learning outcomes:

Describe psychiatric problems in elderly people and their impact on the stomatognathic system of elderly people.

Explain the connection between psychiatric problems related to the stomatognathic system and adequate therapy.

S6. Pharmacotherapy of elderly people

Learning outcomes:

To analyze the interaction of drugs for chronic diseases and existing general diseases with dental medical interventions.

S7. Oral surgical problems in elderly people

Learning outcomes:

To define the most common oral surgical problem in elderly people.

Explain the procedures for extracting individual teeth.

S8. Bone changes and possibilities of implantology in elderly people

Learning outcomes:

Explain bone changes in elderly people.

Define possibly possible implant therapy when the same person.

Explain the method of implantation.



S9. Orthodontics in elderly people

Learning outcomes:

Recognize orthodontic anomalies in elderly people.

Define possible orthodontic therapy in elderly people.

S10. Maintaining oral hygiene

Learning outcomes:

Recognize the types of prosthetic replacements and the specifics of hygiene maintenance.

The list of practicals with descriptions:

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Students' obligations:

Students are obliged to attend lectures regularly.

Present seminars on given topics to colleagues.

Actively participate in all forms of teaching

Assessment (exams, description of written / oral / practical exam, the scoring criteria):

ECTS credit rating system:

Student evaluation is carried out according to the valid Rulebook on studies of the University of Rijeka. The students' work will be evaluated and evaluated during the course and in the final exam. Out of a total of 100 points, a student can earn 70 points during classes, and 30 points on the final exam.

Students are graded using the ECTS (A-F) and numerical system (1-5). Grading in the ECTS system is carried out by absolute distribution, and according to graduate grading criteria.

Of the maximum 70 grade points that can be obtained during classes, the student must collect a minimum of 50% of grade points in order to take the final exam.

Evaluation of student obligations

a) Attendance at classes up to 20 points

b) preparation and presentation of a seminar paper during class up to 50 points

c) final exam up to 30 points

The exam threshold on the final exam cannot be less than 50% of the successfully completed exam.

The final grade is the sum of the points obtained during classes (attendance and seminar work) and the points obtained on the final exam.



Based on the total sum of points, students are evaluated as follows:

90 -100 %	5 A
75 -89,9 %	4 B
60 -74,9 %	3 C
50 -59,9 %	2 D
0 -49,9 %	1 F

The numerical evaluation system is compared with the ECTS system as follows: A - excellent (5), B - very good (4), C - good (3), D - sufficient (2), F - insufficient (1).

COURSE SCHEDULE (for the academic year 2024/2025)

Date	Lectures (time and place)	Seminars (time and place)	Practicals (time and place)	Instructor
26.02.2026.	P1 (19:15-20:00) On line			Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan dr.med.dent.
05.03.2026.	P2 (19:15-20:00) Online			Prof.dr.sc.Irena Glažar dr.med.dent.
12.03.2026.	P3 (19:15-20:00) Online			Prof.dr.sc. Davor Kuiš dr.med.
19.03.2026.	P4 (19:15-20:00) Online			Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan dr.med.dent.
26.03.2026.	P5 (19:15-20:00) Online			Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan dr.med.dent.
02.04.2026.		S1 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan , dr.med.dent.
09.04.2026.		S2 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
16.04.2026.		S3 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
23.04.2026.		S4 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.



30.04.2026.		S5 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
07.05.2026.		S6(19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
14.05.2026.		S7 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
21.05.2026.		S8 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.
28.05.2026.		S9, S10 (19:15-20:00) Krešimirova 42		Prof.dr.sc. S. Simonić-Kocijan, dr.med.dent.

	LECTURES (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
P1	Introduction to dental medicine in the elderly	1	Online
P2	Oral medicine for the elderly	1	Online
P3	Periodontal diseases in old age	1	Online
P4	Fixed prosthetic therapy in the elderly	1	Online
P5	Mobile prosthetic therapy in the elderly	1	Online
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	5	

	SEMINARS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
S1	Changes and diseases of hard dental tissues in elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S2	Endodontic and pulpal changes and diseases	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S3	Physiology of elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S4	General diseases of elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S5	Psychiatry of elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S6	Pharmacotherapy of elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S7	Oral surgical problems in elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S8	Bone changes and possibilities of implantology in elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S9	Orthodontics in elderly people	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum
S10	Maintaining oral hygiene	1	Krešimirova 42 praktikum



	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	10	
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	Final exam
1.	18.06.2026.
2.	09.07.2026.
3.	03.09.2026.

	lectures	Seminars	Practicals	Total
Total number	5	10		15
On-line	5			5
Percentage	30			