



Course: BIOETHICS AND DENTAL ETHICS

Course Coordinator: Assistant Professor Višnja Katić

Course Collaborators: Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant

Department: Department of Orthodontics

Study program: University Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Study of Dental Medicine
(in English)

Study year: 1

Academic year: 2026./27.

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.):

The course **Bioethics and Dental ethics** is a compulsory course in the first year of the Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate University Study of Dental Medicine and consists of 15 hours of lectures and 15 hours of seminars, totaling 30 hours (3 ECTS). The course is delivered via e-course on the Merlin platform and in the premises of the Faculty of Dental Medicine.

The aim of the course is to get acquainted with the ethical determinants of dental professionals: the relationship with the patient, colleagues, society and biomedical research.

The content of the course is as follows:

Morality, ethics, bioethics: conceptual distinctions; Professional duties and Code of dental ethics and deontology; Ethics of the relationship between dentists and patients; Patient autonomy; Privacy and confidentiality; Informed consent to treatment and refusal of treatment; Dental profession and community; Ethics and professionalism of dentists in digital media, using photographs and advertising; Ethics in scientific research; Ethics and business management

Teaching:

Teaching is held in the form of lectures and seminars. In the seminar, the lecturer assesses the students' readiness to present the topic and moderates the discussion. There is a final examination at the end. By completing all teaching activities 3 ECTS points is acquired.

Assigned reading:

- World Dental Federation. Dental Ethics Manual. 2nd ed. London: Quintessenz; 2018.
- American Dental Association. Principles of ethics and code of professional conduct. Chicago: American Dental Association; 2018.

Optional/additional reading:

- Budin-Ljøsne I, Teare HJ, Kaye J, Beck S, Bentzen HB, Caenazzo L, Collett C, D'Abramo F, Felzmann H, Finlay T, Javaid MK, Jones E, Katić V, Simpson A, Mascalonzi D. Dynamic



Consent: a potential solution to some of the challenges of modern biomedical research.
BMC Med Ethics. 2017;18:4.

- Budin-Ljøsne I, Mascalzoni D, Soini S, Machado H, Kaye J, Bentzen HB, Rial-Sebbag E, D'Abramo F, Witt M, Schamps G, Katić V, Krajnovic D, Harris JR. Feedback of individual genetic results to research participants: Is it feasible in Europe? Biopreserv Biobank. 2016;14:241-8.

COURSE TEACHING PLAN:

The list of lectures (with topics and descriptions):

P1. Morality, ethics, bioethics: conceptual distinctions

Learning outcomes:

To define the concepts of morality, ethics and bioethics and describe the relationship and connections.

P2. Professional duties and code of dental ethics and deontology

Learning outcomes:

To list professional duties in dental medicine, dental ethics and deontology and describe the relationship.

P3. Central values of the dental profession

Learning outcomes:

To distinguish professional duties and values.

P4. Ethics of the relationship between dentist and patient

Learning outcomes:

To describe the types of relationships; describe the terms autonomy, paternalism

P5. Patient autonomy

Learning outcomes:

To analyze the norms of treatment of persons who are not competent to give consent in the dental practice.

P6. Informed consent to treatment and refusal of treatment

Learning outcomes:

To define the contracting parties and describe the content of the informed consent or refusal of treatment.

P7. Privacy and confidentiality in dental practice

Learning outcomes:

To describe the concepts of privacy and confidentiality.

P8. Poor professional outcome and work

Learning outcomes:

To describe procedures for dealing with poor professional work.

P9. Conflict of professional duties and/or values

Learning outcomes:

Distinguish between professional duties and values.

P10. Dental profession and community

Learning outcomes:

To describe the concepts of social justice and access to oral health care.

P11. Ethics and professionalism of dentists in digital media

Learning outcomes:

To describe ethical behavior in digital media.

P12. Advertising in dentistry

Learning outcomes:

To describe the standardization of advertising. Discuss the ethics of surreptitious advertising.

P13. Ethics in using dental photographs



Learning outcomes:

To develop critical thinking about dilemmas related to using dental photographs.

P14. Ethics and business management

Learning outcomes:

To describe business principles according to ethical frameworks.

P15. Ethics in research

Learning outcomes:

To know ethical norms in research and publishing papers. Describe the role of the ethics committee and the content of informed consent within the research.

The list of seminars with descriptions:

S1-5. Ethical aspects of dental profession

Students independently prepare and publicly present a seminar on a given topic dealing with ethical aspects of their future profession. Also students are discussing situations from dental profession with professor.

The list of practicals with descriptions:

Students' obligations:

Students are required to attend regularly and participate actively in all forms of education. Seminar and final exam are required.

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

ECTS credit grading system:

Student assessment is carried out according to the current Regulations on Studies of the University of Rijeka.

Student work will be evaluated and graded during classes and at the final exam. Out of a total of 100 grade points, a student can achieve 50 points during classes and another 50 points on the exam.

Student assessment is performed using ECTS (A-F) and number system (5-1). Grading in the ECTS system is performed by absolute distribution.

Students who gain from 0 to 24.9% of grades that could be obtained during classes through forms of continuous monitoring and evaluation of students are graded F (unsuccessful), can not gain ECTS credits and must re-enroll the course.

The student gains grades by actively participating in classes and performing the set tasks.

During the classes, the seminar paper is evaluated (maximum up to 50 points):

The grade of the presented seminar paper carries 50 grade points (passing grades in the range of 25-50), and is converted into grade points as follows:

grade	scalar points
2	25
2-3	29
3	33



3-4	37
4	42
4-5	46
5	50

Final exam (total 50 points)

Who can take the final exam:

Students who achieved 25% and more grade points during classes through forms of continuous monitoring and evaluation of students.

Who cannot take the final exam:

Students who achieved from 0 to 24,9% of grades during classes are graded F (unsuccessful), can not gain ECTS credits and must re-enroll the course.

The final exam is written (it can be in a form of multiple answers questions or answers in free form), carries 50 grade points (passing grades ranging from 25-50). The the case of multiple answers questions resolution ratio is multiplied by a weight of 0.5. The limiter is 50%. When hawing test in free form grade is convertes in scalar points in this manner:

grade	scalar points
2	25
2-3	29
3	33
3-4	37
4	42
4-5	46
5	50

To pass the final exam and for the final grade (including the addition of previously achieved grade points during classes), the student must have a positive grade in the final exam and achieve a minimum of 25 grade points (50%).

Assessment in the ECTS system is performed by absolute distribution, ie on the basis of the final achievement:

A– 90-100% points

B – 75-89,9 %

C – 60-74,9 %

D -- 50-59,9%

F – 0-49,9%

Grades in the ECTS system are transformed into a numerical system as follows:

A = excellent (5)

B = very good (4)

C = good (3)



D = sufficient (2)

F = insufficient (1)

Other important information regarding to the course:

Teaching content and all information related to the course as well as exam dates can be found on the e-course on the Merlin platform.

COURSE SCHEDULE (for the academic year 2026/2027)

Date	Lectures (time and place)	Seminars (time and place)	Practicals (time and place)	Instructor
15.12.2026.	Morality, ethics, bioethics: conceptual distinctions P1 (8:00-8:45) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
15.12.2026.	Professional duties and code of dental ethics and deontology P2 (8:45- 9:30) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
15.12.2026.	Central values of the dental profession P3 (9:45-10:30) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
15.12.2026.	Ethics of the relationship between dentist and patient P4 (10:30-11:15) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
15.12.2026.	Patient autonomy P5 (11:45- 11:30) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić



15.12.2026.		S1 (11:30-12:15) Discussion of ethical dilemmas Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
15.12.2026.		S2 (12:30-13:15) Discussion of ethical dilemmas Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
15.12.2026.		S3 (13:15-14:00) Discussion of ethical dilemmas Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
16.12.2026.	Informed consent to treatment and refusal of treatment P6 (9:00-9:45) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
16.12.2026.		S4 (9:45-10:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
16.12.2026.		S5 (10:45-11:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
16.12.2026.		S6 (11:30-12:15) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
16.12.2026.		S7 (12:45-13:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
17.12.2026.	Privacy and confidentiality in dental practice P7 (9:00-9:45) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
17.12.2026.		S8 (9:45-10:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
17.12.2026.		S9 (10:45-11:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
17.12.2026.		S10 (11:30-12:15) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
17.12.2026.		S11 (12:45-13:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
18.12.2026.	Poor professional outcome and			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić



	work P8 (9:00-9:45) Krešimirova 42			
18.12.2026.	Conflict of professional duties and/or values P9 (9:45-10:30) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
18.12.2026.	Dental profession and community P10 (10:45-11:30) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
18.12.2026.	Ethics and professionalism of dentists in digital media P11 (11:30-12:15) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
18.12.2026.	Advertising in dentistry P12 (12:45-13:30) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
21.12.2026.	Ethics in using dental photographs P13 webinar asinkrono			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
21.12.2026.	Ethics and business management P14 webinar asinkrono			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
22.12.2026.	Ethics in research P15 (9:00-9:45) Krešimirova 42			Assistant Professor Višnja Katić
22.12.2026.		S12 (9:45-10:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
22.12.2026.		S13 (11:45-12:30) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
22.12.2026.		S14 (12:30-13:15) Krešimirova 42		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant



22.12.2026.		S15 (13:15-14:00) Krešimirova 41		Mia Uhač Ludvig, PhD, teaching assistant
7.1.2027.	Exam			

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

	LECTURES (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
L1	Morality, ethics, bioethics: conceptual distinctions	1	Kresimirova 42
L2	Professional duties and code of dental ethics and deontology	1	Kresimirova 42
L3	Central values of dental profession	1	Kresimirova 42
L4	Ethics of the relationship between dentist and patient	1	Kresimirova 42
L5	Patient autonomy	1	Kresimirova 42
L6	Informed consent to treatment and refusal of treatment	1	Kresimirova 42
L7	Privacy and confidentiality in dental practice	1	Kresimirova 42
L8	Poor professional outcome and work	1	Kresimirova 42
L9	Conflict of professional duties and/or values	1	Kresimirova 42
L10	Dental profession and community	1	Kresimirova 42
L11	Ethics and professionalism of dentists in digital media	1	Kresimirova 42
L12	Advertising in dentistry	1	Kresimirova 42
L13	Ethics in using dental photographs	1	webinar
L14	Ethics and business management	1	webinar
L15	Ethics in research	1	Kresimirova 42
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	15	

	SEMINARS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
S1-15	Ethical aspects of dental profession – discussion of ethical dilemmas and student papers	15	Kresimirova 42



	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	15	

	PRACTICALS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS		

	FINAL EXAM DATES
1.	7.1.2027.
2.	28.1.2027.
3.	4.2.2027.



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	Lectures	Seminars	Practicals	Total
Total number	15	15		30
On-line	0	10		10
Percentage	0%	66%		33%