



Course: Forensic dental medicine

Course Coordinator: Sonja Pezelj-Ribatić, PhD, Professor

Department: Oral medicine

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

Study year: 4th

Academic year: 2026/2027

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.):

Forensic dentistry is a regular one-semester course in University Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Study of Dental Medicine curriculum that is taught in the fourth year of the integrated undergraduate and graduate dental curriculum. Teaching in forensic dentistry is 8 teaching hours of lecture and 3 teaching hours of practice 4 seminars (1 ECTS). The theoretical part of the lecture serves as an introduction to the presentation of forensic teaching cases, and the practical part is carried out in exercises. Students will be introduced to the basic procedures of human body identification based on natural and acquired dental characteristics; getting acquainted with the impact of the law on practical work in dentistry (in the Republic of Croatia); isolation of DNA from dental tissues; analysis of human bites on victims and possible identification of perpetrators; classification of injuries to the stomatognathic system for the purpose of expert opinions on compensation for damages; pointing out the mistakes made by dentists that can lead to endangering the health of our patients. In this course, students will learn the techniques of dental identification of the human body or parts of the human body, that is, the importance of the performance and quality of dental medical documentation to obtain identity. New techniques such as analysis of DNA from dental tissues and PCR technique in forensics are also important. Students will learn to evaluate and classify injuries to the stomatognathic system to support the legislation of the Republic of Croatia. Students will learn the forensic skills necessary to work independently in dental clinics. Proper management of dental documentation

Assigned reading:

1. Brkić H. TEXTBOOK OF FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY BY IOFO. Naklada Slap 2021.

COURSE TEACHING PLAN:

The list of lectures (with topics and descriptions):

L1-L3. Introductory remarks, history of forensic dentistry in Croatia and in the world. Dental identification: procedures, preparation of instruments and analysis. Documentation of dental and oral medicine. Classification of injuries of the stomatognathic system

Learning outcomes

Explanation of the history of forensic dentistry in Croatia and in the world, identification of dental procedures, instrumentation, keeping dental and oral medicine documentation.

L4-L8. Identification in mass casualty cases, organization of identification team.

Determination of age at time of death and determination of time of death by dental procedures.

Determination of sex and race.

Comparison of ante-mortem and post-mortem dental characteristics. DNA analysis of dental



tissues for human body identification

Learning Outcomes

Explain mass casualty identification.

Determine age at time of death, race, and sex. Explain the analysis of DNA from dental tissues to identify the human body.

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

Student assessment is conducted in accordance with the University of Rijeka's current Regulations on Studies. Student performance is evaluated and graded both during the course of instruction and via a final exam. The final exam consists of a practical component (40 points) and an oral component (60 points), with a maximum of 100 points available. The final exam is mandatory. The grading system is determined based on the percentage of points achieved and is aligned with the ECTS system as follows: A – Excellent (5) – 90–100% of points; B – Very Good (4) – 75–89.9% of points; C – Good (3) – 60–74.9% of points; D – Sufficient (2) – 50–59.9% of points; F – Insufficient (1) – 0–49.9% of points.

Students' obligations:

Students are required to attend class regularly and actively participate in all forms of instruction

COURSE SCHEDULE (for the academic year 2026/2027)

Date	Lectures (time and place)	Seminars (time and place)	Practicals (time and place)	Instructor
28.9.2026	L1-2 (10:15-11:45)			Sonja Pezelj-Ribarić, PhD, Professor
5.10.2026	L3-L4 (10:15- 11:45)			Sonja Pezelj-Ribarić, PhD, Professor
12.10.2026	L5-L6 (10:15-11:45)		P1(11:45-12:30)	Sonja Pezelj-Ribarić, PhD, Professor
19.10.2026	L7-L8(10:15-11:45)	S1 (11:45-12:30)		Sonja Pezelj-Ribarić, PhD, Professor
26.10.2026		S2-S4 (10:15-11:45)	P2-P3 (11:45- 13:15)	Sonja Pezelj-Ribarić, PhD, Professor



List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

	LECTURES (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
1	Introductory remarks, history of forensic dentistry in Croatia and in the world.	1	Krešimirova 40
2	Dental identification: procedures, instrument preparation and analysis. Classification of injuries to the stomatognathic system	1	Krešimirova 40
3	Dental-oral medical documentation	1	Krešimirova 40
4	Identification in mass casualty cases, organization of the identification team	1	Krešimirova 40
5	Determination of age and time of death by dental techniques	1	Krešimirova 40
6	Determination of gender and ethnicity	1	ONLINE
7	Comparison of ante-mortem and post-mortem dental characteristics	1	ONLINE
8	DNA analysis of dental tissues in the identification of the human body	1	Krešimirova 40
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	8	

	SEMINARS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
1	Identification in mass casualty incidents, organisation of an identification team	1	
2	Inherited and acquired changes in teeth that are important for the identification of the human body	1	
3	Identification of corpses and human remains by examination of the oral mucosa in forensic dentistry	1	
4	Neglect of dentists	1	
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	4	

	PRACTICALS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
1	Analyze bite injuries to the human body and identify the perpetrator	1	
2	Case report	1	
3	Case report	1	
	TOTAL TEACHING HOURS	3	



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	FINAL EXAM DATES
1.	26.10.2026
2.	1.2.2027
3.	6.7.2027

	Lectures	Seminars	Practicals	Total
Total number	8	4	3	15
On-line				
Percentage				