



Course: Psychiatry and psychological medicine

Course Coordinator: Sandra Blažević Zelić, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor

Course Collaborators: Aristeia Pavešić Radonja, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor

Department: Psychiatry and psychological medicine

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

Study year: 3rd

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.):

The course is organized through 15 hours of lectures and 15 hours of seminars that carry 3 ECTS credits.

Psychological medicine is a medical science that deals with the experience of patients and doctors (and other medical professionals), their mutual relationship and the patient's relationship with the disease. Communication represents one of the basic human needs, Psychological medicine aims to introduce students to biopsychosocial approach to human development that emphasizes interaction among the biological, psychological, and societal systems. Psychosocial theories help to understand the interactions between individuals and their social environment.

In the first part of the course, the goal is to acquaint the student with the basics of psychological medicine, its meaning and importance in interpersonal relationships. Equally, the aim of the course is to acquaint the student with the specifics of successful communication in situations specific to the profession, understanding the patient-doctor-



disease relationship, and getting to know the psychological components of the disease. The goal is to explain and define transference and countertransference phenomena, defense mechanisms as people's reactions to unpleasant events, actions or thoughts. Students will be explained the factors that determine the attitude towards the disease and the patient, explain the importance of empathy, familiarize them with psychological reactions to the disease and explain psychological factors as modulators of the course of the disease. Knowing these processes allows for a better understanding of the psychological needs and behavioral patterns that patients encounter.

Psychiatry is a clinical discipline that helps the student to acquire knowledge about mental disorders that occur most often in the clinic. The student should be taught how to communicate with the mentally ill with an emphasis on the biopsychosocial understanding of mental disorders. During the class, students will master the skill of recognizing mental disorders. At the same time, during classes, they will receive information from the field of psychiatry with which they can come into contact and inform them about the clinical picture, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions.

The student should master the ability to recognize psychological factors in communication, especially when it comes to communication with the patient, and recognize factors that make communication difficult and they hinder teamwork. The student should master the ability to recognize psychological factors in the patient's behavior, but also recognize the importance of transference and countertransference phenomena as well as defense mechanisms. During the course, the student should master the basic forms of constructive communication models in the most common situations within their own profession, both with patients and colleagues.

As part of the psychiatric part, the student will acquire basic knowledge about general psychopathology, schizophrenia and schizophrenia-like disorders, mood disorders, organic mental disorders, anxiety disorders, addiction diseases and adolescent psychopathology, classification and therapy of the above-mentioned diseases.



In this course, the student gets to know the basic developmental theories of personality and the structure of the psychological apparatus. The specificity of communication in healthcare institutions and patients in certain developmental periods of life was also emphasized. Basic components of teamwork and communication within the team are also covered, both those that contribute to development and those that represent possible destructive processes.

Furthermore, students will become familiar with the phenomenon of transference and countertransference and stigmatization by illness, with the mechanism of influence of mental states on physical manifestations and vice versa, and ways of solving problems arising from these relationships.

During the course, students will learn about the basic principles of taking a psychiatric history and the basic factors, symptoms and syndromes of general psychopathology. Furthermore, within the course, students will be informed about the basic groups of psychiatric entities as well as the possibilities of their treatment, side effects of therapeutic procedures. Considering the increasing number of addicts, it is necessary to familiarize students with the problems arising from the community. It is necessary to educate dental students about the problems of stigma as well as the basic settings of psychiatry in the community.

Assigned reading:

1. Newman BM, Newman PR. Development Through Life: A psychosocial approach.

Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017., https://uniri-my.sharepoint.com/personal/marinalc_uniri_hr/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fmarinalc%5Funiri%5Fhr%2FDocuments%2F9781337098144%281%29%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fmarinalc%5Funiri%5Fhr%2FDocuments&ga=1



2. Black DW, Andreasen NC. INTRODUCTORY TEXTBOOK OF PSYCHIATRY; Seventh Edition.

American Psychiatric Association; VA, US 2020 (e-book)

<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9781615373758>

3. Kaplan HI, Sadock B J. Synopsis of Psychiatry. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 2012

Optional/additional reading:

COURSE TEACHING PLAN:

The list of lectures (with topics and descriptions):

L 1. Psychological medicine

Learning outcome: Point out the basics of psychological medicine as a medical discipline, interactions between biological, psychological and social factors in the development of diseases

L 2. Structure of the psychic apparatus

Learning outcome: Explain, describe and differentiate the developmental stages of personality. The student will recognize and become aware of the components of the psychic apparatus that are involved in communication, environmental factors that are important for the formation of the world of internal objects (dyadic relationship with the mother, triangulation in the Oedipal phase...).

L 3. Development theories



Learning outcomes: The student is expected to understand various theoretical concepts that explain developmental life stages.

L 4. Defense mechanisms

Learning outcome: Explain, describe and differentiate defense mechanisms. Differentiate between mature, immature and psychotic defense mechanisms in health and disease.

L 5 Classification and diagnosis in psychiatry

Learning outcome: The student is expected to understand the general principles of established psychiatric classifications and to master psychiatric diagnostic entities.

L 6 Anxiety disorders

Learning outcomes: The lecture aims to describe the clinical features of anxiety, dissociative and somatoform disorders. The student will become familiar with diagnostics, clinical findings and clinical treatment of the above-mentioned disorders.

L 7 Diseases of addiction

Learning outcomes: This lecture aims to acquaint students with the etiology and clinical manifestations of addiction and the somatic, psychological and social consequences of the disorder. The student should learn about the clinical course of the above-mentioned disorders, and become familiar with the aspects of intoxication, tolerance and abstinence, as well as different therapeutic approaches.

L 8 Mood disorders



Learning outcomes: The aim is to present the etiology, clinical picture and treatment of mood disorders. The student should learn the basics of diagnosis and treatment of mood disorders

L 9 Psychosis

Learning outcomes: The learning outcome is to describe and define a series of signs and symptoms resulting from the underlying cognitive and emotional impairments caused by this psychiatric disorder.

L 10 Schizophrenia

Learning outcomes: Schizophrenia represents the most devastating psychiatric disease, the etiology of which is still insufficiently defined. The learning outcome is to describe and define a series of signs and symptoms that define this disease.

L 11 Organic psychological disorders

Learning outcome: The purpose of this lecture is to provide students with knowledge about different neurocognitive disorders. Students should get to know the clinical manifestation, etiology, diagnosis and treatment options of patients with organic psychological disorders

L 12 Disorders of children and adolescents:

Learning outcomes: The goal is to acquaint students with the specific diagnosis, clinical features and treatment of psychological disorders in children and adolescents.

L 13 Emergencies in psychiatry



Learning outcome: Students should recognize emergency situations in psychiatry that include suicide attempts, agitation, intoxication and delirious states, panic attacks and extreme changes in behavior.

L 14 Psychopharmacotherapy – anxiolytics and antidepressants

Learning outcome: Students must recognize basic anxiolytics and antidepressants and their use in psychiatric disorders.

L 15 Psychopharmacotherapy – antipsychotics and mood stabilizers

Learning outcome: Students must recognize groups of antipsychotics and mood stabilizers and their use in psychiatric disorders.

The list of seminars with descriptions:

S 1 Psychoanalytic Theory: The student is expected to understand and explain basic psychodynamic principles and their implications for human development.

S 2 Attachment theory and object relations theory: The students are expected to understand and explain the basic principles of these theories and their implications for human development

S 3 Erikson's theory: The student should be able to describe the basic factors of development according to Erikson, including the interrelationship between biological, psychological and social factors



S4 Communication with the patient: Learn the importance of communication in everyday and professional life.

S 5 Communication with a small child: Get to know the specifics of the child's developmental period and communication with a healthy and sick child

S 6: Communication with an adolescent: Get to know the specifics of the adolescent's developmental period and communication with an adolescent

S 7 Communication with an adult: Learn the specifics of the adult's developmental period and communication with an adult

S 8: Communication with an elderly patient: Get to know the specifics of the development period of old age and communication with an older person

S 9: Interview and history taking in psychiatry: The goal is to learn the techniques of psychiatric interviewing and proper history taking. The student is expected to understand the importance of the psychiatric interview for the patient's diagnosis and the creation of a treatment plan.

S 10: General psychopathology: disorders of consciousness, orientation, psychomotor, will and attention: The student should be able to recognize and apply the listed components of psychological status.

S 11: General psychopathology: disorders of affect, thinking, perception, drive and intelligence: The student should be able to recognize and apply the listed components of psychological status.



S 12: Sleep disorders: The student should distinguish the basic components of these disorders and treatment algorithms.

S 13: Eating disorders: The student should distinguish between the clinical entities of these disorders and modern treatment algorithms.

S 14: Psychotherapeutic and sociotherapeutic treatment: The student should recognize the main psychotherapeutic and sociotherapeutic techniques used in the treatment of psychiatric disorders.

S 15: Psychiatry in the community: The aim of this lecture is to explain the importance of psychiatry in the community as a way of providing a coordinated program of mental health protection in the community. It involves working with patients and their families. The activities of consultative psychiatry are focused on psychiatric and psychosocial aspects of medical care. Students should understand the basic principles of this type of treatment.

Students' obligations:

Students are required to attend regularly and actively participate in all forms of learning.

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

Students' work will be evaluated during classes and on the final exam. Out of a total of 100 points, a student can obtain 50 points during classes, and 50 points on the final exam.

50% of the grade is obtained by grading through a partial knowledge test.



The partial exam is a written test in the field of psychological medicine and psychiatry and the maximum number of points a student can achieve is 50, and the minimum number of points for passing is 50%, that is, 25 or more points.

A student can repeat a partial knowledge test if he did not receive a passing number of points for that part or if he justifiably did not take the partial knowledge test.

Students who score 25 or more points during classes can take the final exam.

The final exam consists of an oral exam.

The oral exam carries a maximum of 50 points, and consists of an oral examination of theoretical knowledge in the field of psychological medicine and psychiatry. The minimum number of points for passing is 50% or more, or 25 or more points.

Students are graded by ECTS (A-F) and numerical system (1-5). Grading in the ECTS system is carried out by absolute distribution, and according to the graduate study grading criteria, in such a way that the final grade consists of the number of points collected through classes and on the exam as follows:

90-100 pointsexcellent (5) A; 90-100%

75-89.9 points.....very good (4) B; 75-89.9%

60-74.9 pointsgood (3)C; 60-74.9%

50-59.9 points.....sufficient (2) D;50-59.9%

0-49.9 points.....insufficient (1) F; 0-49.9%



COURSE SCHEDULE (for the academic year 2026/2027)

Date	Lectures (time and place)	Seminars (time and place)	Practicals (time and place)	Instructor
12/11/2026 Thursday	L1- L3 (9:00 - 11:15) L4-L5 (14:00-15:15)	S1-S4 (11:30-13:45)		Sandra Blažević Zelić MD PhD, Assistant Professor
13/11/2026 Friday	L6- L8 (9:00- 11:00)	S5-S8 (11:30-14:30)		Aristea Pavešić Radonja, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
16/11/2026 Monday	L9- L12 (09:00- 11:15)	S9-S11 (11:30-13:45)		Aristea Pavešić Radonja, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
17/11/2026 Tuesday	L 13 -14 (09:00- 11:15)	S12-S15 (11:30-14:30)		Sandra Blažević Zelić MD PhD, Assistant Professor
19/11/2026 Thursday	L15 (10:30-11:15)			Aristea Pavešić Radonja, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

	LECTURES (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
L1	Psychological medicine	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L2	Structure of the psychic apparatus	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L3	Development theories	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L4	Defense mechanisms	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L5	Classification and diagnosis in psychiatry	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L6	Anxiety disorders	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L7	Diseases of addiction	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic



L8	Mood disorders	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L9	Psychosis	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L10	Schizophrenia	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L11	Organic psychological disorders	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L12	Sleep disorders	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L13	Emergencies in psychiatry	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L14	Psychopharmacotherapy – anxiolytics and antidepressants	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
L15	Psychopharmacotherapy – antipsychotics and mood stabilizers	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
TOTAL TEACHING HOURS		15	

	SEMINARS (Topics)	Teaching hours	Location/Lecture room
S1	Psychoanalytic Theory	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S2	Attachment theory and object relations theory	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S3	Erikson's theory	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S4	Communication with the patient	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S5	Communication with a small child	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S6	Communication with an adolescent	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S7	Communication with an adult	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S8	Communication with an elderly patient	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S9	Interview and history taking in psychiatry	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S10	General psychopathology	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S11	General psychopathology	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic



S12	Sleep disorders	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S13	Eating disorders	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S14	Psychotherapeutic and sociotherapeutic treatment	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
S15	Psychiatry in the community	1	Lecture Hall Psychiatric Clinic
TOTAL TEACHING HOURS		15	

	MIDTERM EXAM RETAKE
1.	19.11.2026

	FINAL EXAM DATES
1.	23.11.2026
2.	11.12.2026
3.	13.1.2027

	Lectures	Seminars	Practicals	Total
Total number	15	15	/	30
On-line	/	/	/	0
Percentage	50%	50%	/	100%