

**University of Rijeka  
Faculty of Medicine**

**Course: Social Medicine  
Course Coordinator: Tomislav Rukavina MD, PhD  
Department: Social Medicine and Epidemiology  
Study program: Medical Studies in English  
Study year: 1<sup>st</sup>  
Academic year: 2017/2018**

## **SYLLABUS**

### **Course description**

The course Social Medicine is a first-year compulsory course of Medical Studies in English. The course consists of 15 hours of lectures and 20 hours of seminars, leading to a total of 35 hours (2 ECTS). The course is held at the Faculty of Medicine.

The main goal of the course is introducing students to the basic development of social medicine, the promotion of health and prevention of diseases.

Students will learn about the main health determinants leading to health risks, the basics of health education, health promotion and disease prevention.

Students will get an overview of specific features of community-based organization of healthcare in disasters, the basics of health care and social care organization.

Students will be introduced to basic communication skills as well as with examples of programs for the prevention of some of the most important diseases at present time.

#### **Course structure:**

Instruction is organized in the form of lectures and seminars.

Students will actively participate in the course through seminars which they will prepare in collaboration with the instructors. The lectures will engage students by actively reflecting on various issues.

Seminars will prepare students for independent problem solving and integrative thinking. Through seminars students will be introduced to the impacts of social determinants and their negative influence on health as well as preventive measures.

Students will learn about basic communication skills and the creation of population based preventive programs.

Active participation of students throughout the course will be encouraged through independent reading and seminars.

Each student will be assessed on class participation during seminars.

Students need to prepare the reading which will be discussed in lectures and seminars. The final grade will be the sum of acquired points throughout the course and the final exam.

#### **Course content:**

1. Social influence on population health
2. Organization of health and social care in regular and emergency conditions
3. Most important health risks, ways of preventive action and health improvement

At the end of course students will be able to:

1. discuss social factors influencing health and the influence of population health on the society
2. describe the meanings of health and disease, risk factors, evaluation of population health
3. examine the influence of the determinants of health as well as ways and possibilities for population preventive actions

**Assigned reading:**

1. Rukavina, T., Bilajac L. ed. (2017), Social medicine, Rijeka: Faculty of Medicine of the University of Rijeka.
2. Solar O, Irwin A. (2010). A conceptual framework for action on the social determinants of health. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2 (Policy and Practice). Geneva; World Health Organization. <Available: [http://www.who.int/sdhconference/resources/ConceptualframeworkforactiononSDH\\_eng.pdf](http://www.who.int/sdhconference/resources/ConceptualframeworkforactiononSDH_eng.pdf).> Accessed: February 2, 2017

**Optional / additional reading:**

1. Selected articles from relevant books available on the Internet

**COURSE TEACHING PLAN**  
**The list of lectures (with topics and descriptions)**

**L1. Definition and Tasks of Social Medicine**

Basic terminology and concepts of social medicine. Historical overview. Important roles and tasks of social medicine.

**L2. Determinants of Health**

The most important factors that affect health.

**L3. Health Inequalities**

Identification of social inequalities and their impact on health.

**L4. Special Populations and Their Specifics**

Special population groups. Health needs and health care of special population groups.

**L5. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention**

Organized ways of population-wide health promotion and disease prevention at the population level.

**L6. Health Education**

Basic health education concepts in terms of improving the health status of the population.

**L7. Communication Skills**

Basic communication skills for health professionals.

**L8. Health in the Community - "Healthy Cities", "Healthy Counties"**

The basics of maintaining and improving health in community. Features of local and regional projects in the organization of public health projects and their impact on community health. Current trends in health promotion at the local and regional level.

**L9. Health and Health Indicators**

Health indicator definition. Most important indicators and measures of population health.

**L10. Health Care in Emergencies**

**L11. The Most Significant Health Problems of the Modern World**

The most significant risks for the health of the population. The most important leading causes of mortality and morbidity. Selected health statistics data of population and health condition (Croatia, world). The main causes of global and local morbidity.

**L12. Health Care**

Organization of health care.

**L13. Social Care**

Legal frameworks of social welfare.

**L14. International Health Organizations**

Organization and tasks of the most important international health organizations.

**L15. Globalization and Health**

The influence of the modern world and globalization on the health status.

**Seminars (with descriptions):**

**S1 Poverty as a Health Determinant**

**S2 Education as a Health Determinant**

**S3 The Healthcare System as a Health Determinant**

**S4 Organization of Student Healthcare**

**S5 Lifestyle as Health Determinant**

**S5 Social Welfare**

Students will work in groups. Each group will have a mentor who will guide them through their research.

The seminar entails writing a paper (based on given instructions) and delivering a presentation in front of other colleagues. The primary resource for preparing the seminar is available on:

[http://www.who.int/sdhconference/resources/ConceptualframeworkforactiononSDH\\_eng.pdf](http://www.who.int/sdhconference/resources/ConceptualframeworkforactiononSDH_eng.pdf)

**Students' obligations:**

Students have to prepare seminars based on the assigned reading and participate in discussions. The instructor will evaluate students' participation in and preparation of the seminars (demonstrated knowledge, understanding, conclusions, seminar paper, etc.). The final grade will be the sum of acquired credits throughout the course and the final exam.

The final exam is of written form.

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

**Assessment (ECTS credits):**

The students are evaluated during the course and on the final exam (a total of 100 credits).

Of a total of **100 credits**, a student can acquire 70 credits during the course and 30 credits on the final exam.

**I. Assessment during the course (max 70 credits):**

a) active participation in seminars and paper presentation (35 credits)

b) seminar paper (35 credits)

**a) Active participation in seminars and paper presentation (35 credits)**

Point distribution:

excellent	35 credits
very good	30 credits
good	25 credits
sufficient	20 credits

**b) Seminar paper (max 35 credits)**

<b>excellent</b>	<b>35 credits</b>
<b>very good</b>	<b>30 credits</b>
<b>good</b>	<b>25 credits</b>
<b>sufficient</b>	<b>20 credits</b>

## **II. Final exam (30 credits)**

Specific competences are assessed on the final exam.

The final exam is a test comprising 50 questions and credits are awarded only if the student scores at least 50% on the test.

<b>Correct answers</b>	<b>Credits</b>		<b>Correct answers</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>49-50</b>	<b>30</b>		35-36	<b>20</b>
47-48	<b>29</b>		33-34	<b>18</b>
45-46	<b>28</b>		31-32	<b>16</b>
43-44	<b>27</b>		29-30	<b>14</b>
41-42	<b>26</b>		27-28	<b>12</b>
39-40	<b>24</b>		25-26	<b>10</b>
37-38	<b>22</b>			

The students who can take the final exam are:

- **Students who acquired 40-70 credits during the course**
- **Students who acquired less than 40 credits** during the course will be given an additional task in order to fulfill the criteria for taking the final exam. In this case the only grade they can be awarded, upon completing the final exam, is **sufficient (2) E**.

**Students, who have acquired less than 40 credits** during the course and have not been successful in completing the given additional task, **are not be allowed to take the final exam and are graded insufficient (1) F**

- **III. The final grade** is the sum of the credits obtained during the course and on the final exam. It is determined based on absolute distribution.

<b>A (80-100%)</b>	<b>excellent (5)</b>
<b>B (70-79.9%)</b>	<b>very good (4)</b>
<b>C (60-69.9%)</b>	<b>good (3)</b>
<b>D (50-59.9%)</b>	<b>sufficient (2)</b>
<b>E (40-49.9%)</b>	<b>sufficient (2)</b>
<b>F (a student who scored under 50% on the final exam)</b>	<b>insufficient(1)</b>

**Other important information regarding to the course**

Seminars are held during the course. For each class students should be prepared for discussion. It is mandatory to consult with the mentors. Mentors follow the progress of a group and of individual students.

The seminar papers will be presented in the final class.

Students are required to submit their seminar paper (based on the instructions for writing seminar papers) and PowerPoint presentation not later than one week before the paper presentation.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (for academic year 2017/2018)**

Date	Lecture (time and location)	Seminars (time and location)	Instructor
09/10/2017	L1 (10-11)		Professor T. Rukavina, MD, PhD
09/10/2017	L2 (11-12)		Professor T. Rukavina, MD, PhD
09/10/2017	L3 (12-13)		Professor L. Bilajac, PhD
10/10/2017		S1 – S6 (12-15)	12-13 Lovorka i Darko 13-14 Helena i Vanja 14-15 Svjetlana i Gordana
16/10/2017	L4 (10-11)		Professor T. Rukavina, MD, PhD
16/10/2017	L5 (11-12)		Darko Roviš, PhD
16/10/2017	L6 (12-13)		Helena Glibotić-Kresina, MD
17/10/2017		S1 (12-15)	Darko Roviš, PhD
23/10/2017	L7 (10-11)		Helena Glibotić-Kresina, MD
23/10/2017	L8 (11-12)		Professor Đ. Malatestinić, MD, PhD
23/10/2017	L9 (12-13)		Professor Đ. Malatestinić, MD, PhD
24/10/2017		S2 (12-15)	L. Bilajac, PhD
30/10/2017	L10 (10-11)		L. Bilajac, PhD

30/10/2017	L11 (11-12)		Assistant Professor A. Racz, MD, PhD
31/10/2017		S3 (12-15)	Helena Glibotić-Kresina, MD
06/11/2017	L13 (10-11)		Professor Đ. Malatestinić MD, PhD
06/11/2017	L14 (11-12)		Assistant Professor N. Janev Holcer
07/11/2017		S4(10-13)	Gordana Šimunković
13/11/2017	L15 (10-11)		Assistant Professor V.Vasiljev Marchesi, M.Sc., PhD
13/11/2017	L12 (12-13)		Assistant Professor V.Vasiljev Marchesi, M.Sc., PhD
14/11/2017		S5(10-12)	Svjetlana Gašparović Babić
14/11/2017		S6(12-14)	Assistant Professor V.Vasiljev Marchesi, M.Sc., PhD

**List of lectures and seminars:**

	<b>Lectures (Topic)</b>	<b>Teaching hours</b>	<b>Location</b>
L1	Definition and Tasks of Social Medicine	1	
L2	Determinants of Health	1	
L3	Social Inequalities	1	
L4	Special Populations and Their Peculiarities	1	
L5	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	1	
L6	Health Education	1	
L7	Communication Skills	1	
L8	Health in the Community - "Healthy Cities", "Healthy Counties"	1	
L9	Health and Health Indicators	1	
L10	Health Care in Emergencies	1	
L11	The Most Significant Health Problems of the mModern World		
L12	Health Care	1	
L13	Social Care	1	
L14	International Health Organizations	1	
L15	Globalization and Health	1	
	<b>Total duration</b>	<b>15</b>	

	<b>Seminars (Topic)</b>	<b>Teaching hours</b>	<b>Location</b>
S1	Lifestyle as Determinant of Health		
S2	The Healthcare System as a Determinant of Health		
S3	The Organization of Students' Healthcare		
S4	Social Welfare		
S5	Education as a Health Determinant		
S6	Poverty as a Health Determinant		
	<b>Total duration</b>	<b>20</b>	

	<b>FINAL EXAM DATES</b>
1.	
2.	
3.	