



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Medical ethics; medical law; forensic medicine	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinator: Prof. dr. Eugenijus Gefenas Other(s): Teaching staff of the Centre for Health Ethics, Law and History and the Department of Public Health at the Institute of Health Sciences; the Department of Pathology, the Forensic Medicine and Pharmacology at Institute of Biomedical Sciences	Vilnius University, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Health Sciences, Centre for Health Ethics, Law and History, Department of Public Health; Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Pharmacology, M.K. Čiurlionio g. 21/27, 03101 Vilnius

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Integrated	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	semester X	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: knowledge of other bio-medical sciences: history of medicine, basics of health care provider-patient relationship, human anatomy and physiology, pathology, biochemistry, clinical disciplines (obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, neurology, toxicology, traumatology, internal medicine)	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	135	67	68

Purpose of the course unit		
The aim of this course is: 1) to introduce students to a range of issues in contemporary medical ethics (bioethics); to develop the ability to identify ethical problems in health care, to reflect and deal with them considering ethical principles and legal norms; 2) to get students acquainted with international and national medical law, to develop the ability to interpret medical legislative provisions and to apply them in practice; 3) to get students acquainted with forensic medicine as a multidisciplinary branch of science, to develop the ability to apply the acquired knowledge in medical practice.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
After the completion of the module students are supposed: - to know basic principles of medical ethics, be familiar with ethical issues of personal and public health;	Problem-solving teaching; reading of required (recommended) literature;	Assessment of students' activity during seminars, case

	active learning methods (group discussions); research methods (case presentations).	presentation, written assignment, exam.
- to know the main national and international laws, conventions, codes, and other documents relevant to medical ethics and be able to apply these instruments in critical evaluation of ethically problematic cases in medicine;	Problem-solving teaching; reading of required (recommended) literature; active learning methods (group discussions); research methods (case presentations).	Assessment of students' activity during seminars, case presentation, written assignment, exam.
- be able to analyze and critically evaluate relevant ethical dilemmas and be able to apply acquired knowledge to solve them in health care practice;	Problem-solving teaching; reading of required (recommended) literature; active learning methods (group discussions); research methods (case presentations).	Assessment of students' activity during seminars, case presentation, written assignment, exam.
- to develop integrated and systematic approach to legal regulation of health care and health protection, to understand medical legislative provisions and to apply them in practice	Seminars, reading and analysing required literature and legal acts; problem-solving teaching; active learning methods (group discussions).	Written assignment
- to know the regulation of forensic medicine in Lithuania, the concept of this science and research objects, the types of forensic medical examinations and the peculiarities of their performance, the competence and responsibility of a forensic doctor, types of death and their causes, types of injuries and mechanisms.	Presentation of theoretical knowledge by oral and audio-visual means, active learning methods (group discussions and situational tasks individually or in small groups), participation in the forensic examinations.	Test
- will be able to differentiate the injuries and determine the preliminary time of their occurrence, establish the fact of death and, within the limits of their competence, determine the preliminary cause and time of death, to fill in the medical death certificate correctly.	Presentation of theoretical knowledge by oral and audio-visual means, active learning methods (group discussions and situational tasks individually or in small groups), participation in the forensic examinations.	Test

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual hours	Tasks for individual work
1. Preconditions for the development of the contemporary medical ethics. Methodology and basic principles of medical ethics. Physician-patient relationship: paternalism, autonomy, informed consent, privacy, confidentiality.	2		4	2			8	5	To prepare for the practical assignments: to read required (recommended) literature, to get acquainted with relevant legal acts, to prepare for the presentation, to write an essay.
2. Ethical dilemmas at the beginning of human life: medically assisted reproduction, prenatal diagnosis, pregnancy termination.			2	2			4	4	To prepare for the practical assignments: to read required

									(recommended) literature, to get acquainted with relevant legal acts, to prepare for the presentation, to write an essay.
3. Ethical dilemmas related to the end of human life.			2	2			4	4	To prepare for the practical assignments: to read required (recommended) literature, to get acquainted with relevant legal acts, to prepare for the presentation, to write an essay.
4. Ethical issues in the donation of human tissues and organs.			2	2			4	3	To prepare for the practical assignments: to read required (recommended) literature, to get acquainted with relevant legal acts, to prepare for the presentation, to write an essay.
5. Health-related research involving humans: ethical aspects.			2	2			4	4	To prepare for the practical assignments: to read required (recommended) literature, to get acquainted with relevant legal acts, to prepare for the presentation, to write an essay.
6. Different interpretations of health and disease and their ethical implications. Medicalisation. Just allocation of scarce health care resources.				2			2	4	To prepare for the practical assignments: to read required (recommended) literature, to get acquainted with relevant legal acts, to prepare for the presentation, to write an essay.
	2		12	12			26	25	
7. Theoretical background of health law. Legislation. Medical law. Legal regulation of the medical profession. The standards covering professional conduct of doctors.			2				2	4	Getting acquainted with the relevant legal acts, performing of practical tasks.
8. Regulation of patients' rights by international and national legal acts. Duties and responsibility of a doctor. Legal regulation of no-fault compensation scheme for medical accidents.			6				6	6	Getting acquainted with the relevant legal acts, performing of practical tasks, presenting the case of medical practice.
9. Legal regulation of the specific medical fields. Legal problems of reproduction. Legal regulation			6				6	6	Getting acquainted with the relevant legal

of determination of human birth and death. Transformational medicine. International and national legal regulation of the biomedical research.									acts, performing of practical tasks, presenting the case of medical practice.
			14				14	16	
10. Introduction to Forensic medicine. Regulation of forensic medicine in Lithuania.	2						2	2	Reading of required (recommended) literature, getting acquainted with the relevant legal acts.
11. Examination of living persons. The severity of health impairment. Sexual offences.			6				6	6	Reading of required (recommended) literature, getting acquainted with the relevant legal acts. Analysis of the case. Solving the given tasks.
12. General thanatology. Forensic medical examinations of the deceased. Medical death certificate.			7				7	7	Reading of required (recommended) literature, getting acquainted with the relevant legal acts. Solving the given tasks.
13. Forensic traumatology. Forensic ballistics.				6			6	6	Reading of required (recommended) literature. Solving the given tasks.
14. Types of asphyxia. Mechanical asphyxia.				6			6	6	Reading of required (recommended) literature. Solving the given tasks.
	2		13	12			27	27	
Total	4		39	25			68	67	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
The course can be passed if its three parts receive no less than 50% of the max grade. The final grade is rounded as follows: 9.5 to 10; 8.5 to 9; 7.5 to 8, etc. Participation in seminars and workshops is mandatory. Students who have not completed assignments for missed seminars and workshops are not allowed to take the exam.			
Medical ethics			
Assessment of students' activity during seminars (oral case presentation leading a discussion, participation in the discussion)	15%	During the semester	Comprehensiveness of analysis, logical reasoning, and presentation of different interpretations of the case; constructive comments.
Medical ethics essay	10%	During the semester	- Clear and consistent structure: introduction (the presentation of the problem), discussion (analysis of different arguments and attitudes), conclusions, reference list; appropriate length; - Comprehensiveness, logical reasoning; - Proper citation and referencing.
Answering the questions regarding 2 cases (in writing)	15%	During the exam (according to the VU MF exam schedule)	- Comprehensiveness and quality of the argumentation; - Ability to demonstrate a good knowledge of lecture materials and required readings.

Medical law			
Medical case presentation	20%	During the semester	- Emphasizing problematic aspects; - Decision making based on the legal acts; - Conclusions and practical recommendations.
Forensic medicine			
Test	40%	During the exam (according to the VU MF exam schedule)	The test includes 20 theoretical questions and/or clinical situations.

Author (-s)	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Medical ethics				
Medicinos etikos atvejų archyvas	2022	The <i>AMA Journal of Ethics</i>		https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/cases?
Nuffield Council on Bioethics	2018	Genome editing and human reproduction: social and ethical issues		http://nuffieldbioethics.org/wp-content/uploads/Genome-editing-and-human-reproduction-short-guide-website.pdf
	2016	Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics		Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht https://link.springer.com/referecework/10.1007/978-3-319-05544-2
Lo B.	2013	Resolving ethical dilemmas: a guide for clinicians		Philadelphia
Chambaere K, Bernheim J.	2019	End-of-Life Decisions. Textbook of Palliative Care, 1565-1585.		https://link.springer.com/refereceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-319-77740-5_91
Dalal AR	2015	Philosophy of organ donation: review of ethical facets	<i>World Journal of Transplantation</i> 5, 2 (2015): 44-51	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4478599/
Council of Europe	1997	Convention for the protections of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and additional protocols		https://www.coe.int/en/web/bioethics/oviedo-convention
Medical law				
Baublys L. ir kiti.	2012	Teisės teorijos įvadas		Vilnius: MES
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 1992, Nr. 33-1014), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Lietuvos Respublikos teisėkūros pagrindų įstatymas		Žin., 2012, Nr. 110-5564, aktuali redakcija.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Lietuvos Respublikos civilinis kodeksas		Žin., 2000, Nr. 74-2262, aktuali redakcija.

	2015	Lietuvos Gydytojo profesinės etikos kodeksas		https://www.lgs.lt/lgs-profesines-etikos-kodeksas
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		LR Medicinos praktikos įstatymas		Žin., 1996, Nr. 102-2313, aktuali redakcija.
The European Parliament, Council of Europe	2013	Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications		http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/55/oj
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Republic of Lithuania Law on the Rights of Patients and compensation of the Damage to their Health		(Žin., 1996, Nr. 102-2317), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Lietuvos Respublikos psichikos sveikatos priežiūros įstatymas		TAR, 2019, Nr. XIII-1906, aktuali redakcija.
	1997	Convention for the protections of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and additional protocols		Žin., 2002, Nr. 97-4258. https://www.coe.int/en/web/bioethics/oviedo-convention
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Lietuvos Respublikos Pagalbinio apvaisinimo įstatymas		TAR, 2016, Nr. XII-2608, aktuali redakcija.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Lietuvos Respublikos žmogaus audinių, ląstelių, organų donorystės ir transplantacijos įstatymas		Žin., 1996, Nr. I-1626, aktuali redakcija.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		The law on the registration of death of a human being, and on critical conditions of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 1996, Nr. 30-712), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		LR vaiko gimimo momento nustatymo įstatymas		Žin., 2002, Nr.43, aktuali redakcija.
Pasaulinė Medikų Asociacija		Declaration of Helsinki		Priimta 18-ojoje Pasaulinėje medikų asamblėjoje Helsinkyje (Suomija) 1964 m. birželio mėn., aktuali redakcija https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/
Lietuvos Respublikos Biomedicininį tyrimų etikos įstatymo Nr. VIII-1679 pakeitimo įstatymas				TAR, 2015, Nr. XII-193, aktuali redakcija.
Forensic medicine				
DiMaio, V.J.M., & Kimberley Molina, D.	2021	DiMaio's Forensic Pathology (3rd ed.).		CRC Press. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429318764
Madea, B., Dettmaeyer, R.	2010	Teisės medicinos pagrindai		Vilnius: Mykolo Romerio universiteto leidykla

Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)	1992	The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 1992, Nr. 33-1014), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		The Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 2000, Nr. 89-2741), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 2002, Nr. 37-1341), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		The law on forensic expertise of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 2002, Nr. 112-4969), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		The law on the registration of death of a human being, and on critical conditions of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 1996, Nr. 30-712), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Republic of Lithuania Law on the Rights of Patients and compensation of the Damage to their Health		(Žin., 1996, Nr. 102-2317), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Law on the Prosecution Service		(Žin., 1994, Nr. 81-1514), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (lrs.lt)		Law on Courts of the Republic of Lithuania		(Žin., 1994, Nr. 46-851), current vers.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		LRV 2016 m. gegužės 18 d. nutarimas Nr. 503 „Dėl transporto priemonės vairuojančių ir kitų asmenų neblaivumo ar apsvaigimo nustatymo taisyklių patvirtinimo ir leidžiamos etilo alkoholio koncentracijos darbo metu nustatymo“		(TAR 2016-05-25), aktuali red.
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas (www.lrs.lt)		Sveikatos apsaugos ministro, teisingumo ministro ir Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministro 2003 m. gegužės 23 d. įsakymas Nr. V-298/158/A-86 „Dėl sveikatos sutrikdymo masto nustatymo taisyklių patvirtinimo“		(Žin., 2003, Nr. 52-2357), aktuali red.
Lietuvos teisės universitetas Teismo medicinos institutas	2004	Sveikatos sutrikdymo masto nustatymo taisyklės. Sveikatos sutrikdymo masto nustatymo taisyklių komentaras		Lietuvos teisės universiteto leidykla, Vilnius

Optional reading

Medical law				
Alan Merry, Alexander McCall Smith	2003	Errors, Medicine and the Law		Cambridge University Press
George J. Annas	2004	The Rights of Patients		New York University Press
Forensic medicine				
Ed. Margaret M. Stark	2021	Clinical Forensic Medicine: A physician's guide.		S.I.: SPRINGER.
Jason Payne-James, Richard Jones.	2019	Simpson's Forensic Medicine, 14th Edition		CRC Press
Schmitt, K.-U., Niederer, P., Cronin, D. S., Morrison, B., Muser, M. H., & Walz, F. H.	2019	Trauma biomechanics: An introduction to injury biomechanics.		2020 Springer Nature Switzerland AG.
Catanese, C. A.	2016	Color Atlas of Forensic Medicine and Pathology.		New York, NY: CRC Press.

