



Course title: FORENSIC MEDICINE

ECTS credit allocation (and other scores): 3

Semester: autumn

Level of study: ISCED-7 - second-cycle programmes (EQF-7)

Branch of science: Medical and health sciences

Language: English

Number of hours per semester: 50

Course coordinator/ Department and e-mail: Piotr Engelgardt MD. PhD, Department of Forensic Medicine;
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Type of classes: classes

Substantive content

CLASSES:

1. Post-mortem examination: External examination of the body surface, assessment of postmortem changes and estimating the time of death. Examination techniques and methodology of post-mortem examination. Guidelines on the collection of biological specimens for further testing (histopathology, toxicology, and genetics). Note keeping and statement/report writing following an autopsy.
2. Thanatology: Mechanisms of death, post-mortem changes to the body and crime scene investigation.
3. Asphyxia.
4. Carbon monoxide poisoning, hypothermia, fire accidents and burn injury.
5. Body surface injuries, including injuries resulting from Road Traffic Accidents.
6. Firearms and gunshot injury.
7. Recommendations on the collection of samples and specimens for toxicological purposes.
8. Neonaticide, infanticide and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
9. A forensic medical examination in criminal and civil litigation.

SEMINAR

1. Report/opinion writing in criminal and civil litigations: A forensic medical examination of victims and suspects, interpretation of examination findings and conclusion.
2. Forensic Anthropology.
3. Basic aspects of Forensic Genetics: paternity testing, identification and testing of various biological specimens.
4. Basic aspects of toxicology, in particular metabolism and effects of alcohol.
5. Neonaticide, infanticide, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Child Abuse, Domestic Violence. Guidelines on the collection of forensic samples from victims and suspects following suspected sexual offence.



6. Report/opinion writing based on the case file in criminal and civil litigation – methodology, documentation analysis, interpretation of findings, various mechanisms of trauma.

7. Civil litigations - personal injury classification, case studies.

8. Giving evidence in court (if possible)

Learning purpose:

C1. Students will be introduced to various and specific aspects of Forensic Medicine, in particular the issues related to the differences between clinical and forensic practice, a comprehensive approach to report/opinion writing including related biological sciences will be discussed in detail.

C2. Students will be familiarised with the basic aspects of Forensic Thanatology, in particular with various mechanisms and causes of death and, postmortem changes to the body.

C3. Students will be familiarised with the basic aspects of Forensic Traumatology, in particular with injury classification, various mechanisms and causes of injury, injury interpretation, including injuries resulting from Road Traffic Accidents.

C4. Students will be introduced to methodology of forensic crime scene investigation, examination techniques of post-mortem examination and the collection of forensic samples and specimens for further testing.

C5. Students will be introduced to the rules governing a forensic medical examination of victims and suspects, notes-keeping and statement/report/opinion writing.

C6. Students will be introduced to the basic aspects of Forensic Toxicology.

C7. Students will be introduced to the basic aspects of Forensic Genetics, its benefits and limitations from the Forensic Practitioner/Expert perspective.

C8. Students will be familiarised with the principles governing report/opinion writing in criminal and civil litigation.

C9. Students will be introduced to current legal regulations and ethical issues underlying medical practice.

On completion of the study programme the graduate will gain:

Knowledge:

W1 - Students will understand various and specific aspects of Forensic Medicine, in particular the issues related to the differences between clinical and forensic practice and the need for a comprehensive approach to report/opinion writing including related biological sciences

W2 - Students will be familiar with the basic aspects of Forensic Thanatology, in particular with various mechanisms and causes of death and post-mortem changes to the body

W3 - Students will be familiar with the basic aspects of Forensic Traumatology, in particular with injury classification, various mechanisms and causes of injury, injury interpretation, including injuries resulting from Road Traffic Accidents

W4 - Students will be aware of the basic aspects of Forensic Toxicology

W5 - Students will understand basic aspects of Forensic Genetics, its benefits and limitations from the Forensic Practitioner/ Expert perspective



W6 - Students will understand the principles governing report/opinion writing in criminal and civil litigation

Skills:

U1 - Students will be able to utilise respective examination techniques at the crime scene and during postmortem examination, including the collection of forensic samples and specimens for further testing

U2 - Students will be able to conduct a forensic medical examination.

Social Competencies:

K1 - Students will be aware of principles governing the clinical and forensic practice of Forensic Practitioner

Basic literature:

1. V.J. Di Mayo; D. Di Mayo, Forensic Pathology, Second Edition, wyd. CRC Press LLC, 2001

Supplementary literature:

1. Knight's Forensic Pathology (Saukko, Knight's Forensic Pathology) 3rd Edition

The allocated number of ECTS points consists of:

a. Contact hours with an academic teacher:

- participation in: classes 13 h.
- participation in: laboratory classes 12 h.
- participation in: seminar 20 h.
- consultation 5 h.

b. Student's independent work:

- analysis of forensic journals - 25 h

ECTS point = 25-30 h of the average student's work, number of ECTS points = 75 h : 25 h/ECTS = 3,00 ECTS

on average: 3 ECTS

- including the number of ECTS points for contact hours with direct participation of the academic teacher: 2,00 ECTS points,

- including the number of ECTS points for hours completed in the form of the student's independent work: 1,00 ECTS point