

Subject card

Subject name and code	The Basic of Forensic Medicine - auditorium classes, PG_00134370						
Field of study	Criminology and Criminal Justice						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	2		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	3		ECTS credits		1.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr inż. Mateusz Woźniak				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	10		0.0		15.0	25
Subject objectives	The course aims to familiarize students with the basics of forensic thanatology and traumatology, particularly the forensic medical autopsy, methods for securing biological material for research, and interpretation of test results. The basics of forensic medical expertise in criminal and civil law cases and the role of the expert witness will be discussed, as well as the legal qualification of bodily injury and the criminal and civil liability of physicians, genetics, and forensic toxicology. Aspects related to the most commonly used psychoactive substances (their characteristics and methods of determination in biological samples) will be discussed. Students will also become familiar with current Polish legislation regarding the legal control of psychoactive substances (including narcotics). Toxicology of alcohol will be a key issue.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[CCJL3_WG02] Has an enhanced knowledge of facts and concepts and the relationship between selected natural phenomena, social phenomena and in the sphere of the products of human thought, especially in the perspective of legal conditions related to the problems of criminal acts, as well as the etiology and phenomenology of crime, and on key social and psychological phenomena relevant in the context of the studied direction.	Knows the basic issues related to forensic medicine, forensic toxicology and forensic genetics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[CCJL3_UW01] is able to use his knowledge of criminology and related scientific disciplines to formulate and interpret basic problems associated with criminology, as well as with the functioning of the national and international justice system, observes and interprets phenomena universal for different societies in the field of etiology and phenomenology of crime	Reads and interprets legal acts relating to forensic medicine. Understands and recognizes criminal behavior.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[CCJL3_KK01] is aware of his/her level of knowledge and skills and understands the need for lifelong learning.	Understands that the exact sciences are constantly evolving, so recognizes the need for continuous education and updating of knowledge. Demonstrates the ability to utilize scientific literature and draw meaningful conclusions.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	1. Introduction: - Forensic medicine as an interdisciplinary science; - Application and practical usefulness of forensic medicine; - Historical outline of forensic medicine, the role and importance of forensic medicine, the basic tasks of forensic medicine - Legal conditions of expert witness activity. 2. Thanatology - the study of death: - Current definition of death; - Methods of determining death, both current and past; - Taxonomy (types) of death used in forensic medicine and legal sciences: violent, natural, and physiological death; - Types of violent death based on the circumstances and duration. 3. The dying process, signs of death - definition; types. 4. Interlethal reactions; determining the time of death. 5. Identification of bodies of unknown identity. 6. Types of violent death - definition, mechanisms of death; sudden deaths due to illness that raise suspicion of violent death as a result of a crime. Traumatology the study of trauma. 7. Fundamentals of forensic toxicology: its role and importance in forensic medicine, elements of general toxicology, legal acts concerning the control of psychoactive substances in Poland, characteristics of the most commonly used psychoactive substances (including narcotics and legal highs), analytical methods and techniques used in toxicological diagnostics, interpretation of laboratory test results, especially in terms of determining the state "after use" and "under the influence," elements of expert opinions for law enforcement and the justice system. 8. Alcoholology (ethyl alcohol toxicology) its role and importance in forensic medicine, the impact of alcohol on the functioning of living organisms, alcoholism, sobriety tests, especially in relation to driving under the influence of alcohol, interpretation of analysis results, especially in the context of legal acts. 9. Genetic testing in forensic medicine, with particular emphasis on molecular techniques in the analysis of biological traces, individual identification, and in determining kinship, including paternity; the role of statistical calculation in the interpretation of research results.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Fundamentals of law, the ability to read and interpret legal documents. Basic chemistry and biology from primary and secondary school.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Written exam	50.0%	100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Presentations given during classes (and received from instructors).	
	Supplementary literature	2. B. Madea, Handbook of Forensic Medicine, Wiley & Sons 2014	
	eResources addresses		

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Introduction: - Forensic medicine as an interdisciplinary science; - Application and practical usefulness of forensic medicine; - Historical outline of forensic medicine, the role and importance of forensic medicine, the basic tasks of forensic medicine - Legal conditions of expert witness activity. 2. Thanatology - the study of death: - Current definition of death; - Methods of determining death, both current and past; - Taxonomy (types) of death used in forensic medicine and legal sciences: violent, natural, and physiological death; - Types of violent death based on the circumstances and duration. 3. The dying process, signs of death - definition; types. 4. Interlethal reactions; determining the time of death. 5. Identification of bodies of unknown identity. 6. Types of violent death - definition, mechanisms of death; sudden deaths due to illness that raise suspicion of violent death as a result of a crime. Traumatology the study of trauma. 7. Fundamentals of forensic toxicology: its role and importance in forensic medicine, elements of general toxicology, legal acts concerning the control of psychoactive substances in Poland, characteristics of the most commonly used psychoactive substances (including narcotics and legal highs), analytical methods and techniques used in toxicological diagnostics, interpretation of laboratory test results, especially in terms of determining the state "after use" and "under the influence," elements of expert opinions for law enforcement and the justice system. 8. Alcoholology (ethyl alcohol toxicology) its role and importance in forensic medicine, the impact of alcohol on the functioning of living organisms, alcoholism, sobriety tests, especially in relation to driving under the influence of alcohol, interpretation of analysis results, especially in the context of legal acts. 9. Genetic testing in forensic medicine, with particular emphasis on molecular techniques in the analysis of biological traces, individual identification, and in determining kinship, including paternity; the role of statistical calculation in the interpretation of research results.
Work placement	Not applicable

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