University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Forensic Medicine - lecture, PG_00167881		
Field of study	Criminology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	part-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish Polish
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	3.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
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	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15	0.0	60.0	75

Subject objectives	
	-The course aims to familiarize students with the basics of forensic thanatology and traumatology, particularly the forensic autopsy, methods for securing biological material for testing, and interpretation of test results. The basics of forensic medical expertise in criminal and civil law cases and the role of expert witnesses will be discussed, as well as the legal qualification of bodily injury, 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). Forensic alcoholism will be a key issue.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[KRYMMU2_W02] Has an in-depth knowledge of the nature of natural sciences related to the studied major, their place in the system of sciences and their mutual relations	Knows the basic issues related to forensic medicine, forensic toxicology and forensic genetics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[KRYMMU2_W01] Has an in-depth knowledge of the nature of legal and penal sciences, their place within the system of sciences, their interrelationships, and main development trends.	Reads and interprets legal acts relating to forensic medicine.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[KRYMMU2_K01] Is aware of the level of their knowledge and skills, critically evaluates them, and understands the need for lifelong learning.	The student is aware that knowledge should be constantly deepened and updated.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[KRYMMU2_W06] Has an in-depth knowledge and is familiar with the terminology of psychology, sociology and related sciences applied in criminology, and understands the fundamental dilemmas of contemporary civilization related to them.	The student is able to apply knowledge of psychology, sociology and related sciences to the needs of forensic medicine and the interpretation of legal acts on this subject.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion

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, and the basic tasks of forensic medicine.
- Legal framework for expert witness activities.
2. Thanatology - the study of death:
- Current definition of death;
- Methods of death determination, both current and historical;
- Taxonomy (types) of death used in forensic medicine and legal science: 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 illnesses that raise suspicion of violent death resulting from a crime.
Traumatology is the study of trauma.
7. Fundamentals of forensic toxicology: 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. Alcohololology (ethyl alcohol toxicology) - 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 analytical results, especially in relation to legal acts.
9. Genetic testing in forensic medicine, with particular emphasis on molecular techniques in the study of biological traces, in individual identification, in determining kinship, including paternity; the role of statistics in the interpretation of test 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
-	50.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	clear 70 Wyniki tłumaczenia Tłumaczenie Presentations given during classes (and received from instructors).

	Supplementary literature	1. **Teresiński G. (red.), Medycyna sądowa, PZWL Wydawnictwo Lekarskie, Warszawa:** **- Tom 1 (2019 r.) - TANATOLOGIA** **- Tom 2 (2020 r.) - DIAGNOSTYKA SĄDOWA** **- TOM 3 (2021 r.) - OPINIOWANIE I KLINICZNA MEDYCYNA SĄDOWA** 2.DiMaio WJ, DiMaio Dominik: Medycyna sadowa. Pod redakcja Barbary Swiatek i Zygmunta Przybylskiego. Wy-dawnictwo medyczne: Urban & Partner, Wrocław, 2003 r. 3.R. Pawłowski: Medyczno-sadowe badania sladow biologic
	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, and the basic tasks of forensic medicine. - Legal framework for expert witness activities. 2. Thanatology - the study of death: - Current definition of death; - Methods of death determination, both current and historical; - Taxonomy (types) of death used in forensic medicine and legal science: 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 illnesses that raise suspicion of violent death resulting from a crime. Traumatology is the study of trauma. 7. Fundamentals of forensic toxicology: 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. Alcohololology (ethyl alcohol toxicology) - 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 analytical results, especially in relation to legal acts. 9. Genetic research in forensic medicine with particular emphasis on molecular techniques in the study of biological traces, in individual identification, in determining	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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