



SUBJECT OUTLINE

1. Programme of study description

1.1.	THE "CAROL DAVILA" UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY
1.2.	THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE / THE PRECLINICAL DEPARTMENT 3 (Complementary Sciences)
1.3.	DISCIPLINE Medical Psychology
1.4.	DOMAIN OF STUDY: Healthcare – regulated sector within the EU
1.5.	CYCLE OF STUDIES: BACHELOR'S DEGREE
1.6.	PROGRAMME OF STUDY: MEDICINE

2. Subject description

2.1.	Name of the subject/compulsory subject/elective subject within the discipline: Psychosomatics (<i>English</i>)						
2.2.	Location of the discipline: Faculty of Medicine						
2.3.	Course tenured coordinator: Ovidiu Popa-Velea						
2.4.	Practicals tenured coordinator: n/a						
2.5. Year of study	1	2.6. Semester	2	2.7. Type of assessment	Written exam	2.8. Subject classification	Optional

3. Total estimated time (hours/semester of didactic activity) – teaching module

Number of hours per week	4	Out of which: course	2	Practicals	2
Total number of hours from curriculum	56	Out of which: course	28	Practicals	28
Distribution of allotted time	14 weeks				Hours
Study from textbooks, courses, bibliography, and student notes					
Additional library study, study on specialized online platforms and field study					
Preparing seminars / laboratories, assignments, reports, portfolios and essays					
Tutoring					
Examinations					
Other activities					
Total hours of individual study					
Number of credit points			1		

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. of curriculum	Acquirement of the notions taught in the first year of study at the course of Health Psychology and Medical Communication
4.2. of competencies	Acquirement of the communication skills with the somatic / psychosomatic patient, of the abilities to evaluate the weight of psychological factors in the etiology of somatic diseases and of the addressability criteria to the clinical psychologist / psychiatrist (taught in the first year at the course of Health Psychology and Medical Communication)

5. Requirements (where applicable)

5.1. for delivering the courses	Media projector, loudspeakers
5.2. for delivering the practicals / clinical rotations	Amphitheater at the Faculty of Medicine

6. Acquired specific competencies

Professional competencies (expressed through knowledge and skills)	At the end of the course the student must be able to: 1. Describe the main theories, concepts and clinical manifestations characteristic to psychosomatic disorders and diseases. 2. Know the risk factors and ethiopathogenic mechanisms responsible for the onset of psychosomatic diseases and disorders. 3. Be familiar with the most important psychotherapeutic orientations in the treatment of psychosomatic disease and with their eligibility criteria. 4. Have the ability to apply psychometric instruments, in order to establish the positive diagnosis, the differential diagnosis and the prognosis in psychosomatic disorders and diseases.
Transversal competencies (of role, of professional)	1. The cultivation of the abilities to collaborate in a multidisciplinary team dedicated to the assistance of patients suffering from psychosomatic diseases 2. The deepening of the need of continuous formation, with the inclusion of the theoretical contents pertaining to Psychosomatics and of the related practical abilities.



The "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest
The Quality Assurance Commission

and personal development)	3. The efficient use of the resources and techniques of learning for personal and professional development. 4. The increase of the problem-solving ability in those situations when the patients need interdisciplinary therapeutic assistance.
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7. Subject learning objectives (based on the scale of acquired specific competencies)

7.1. General learning objectives	Making the students familiar with the basic notions regarding the involvement of the psychological factor in the etiopathogenesis of somatic diseases, as well as with the possibilities of their prevention and therapeutic intervention.
7.2. Specific learning objectives	Knowledge of the practical modalities in which somatic diseases can be generated and maintained by psychogenic factors. Understanding of the role of the clinical psychologist in a better management of the psychosomatic patients. Knowledge of the most important psychometric instruments used in assessing the gravity of psychosomatic diseases and their evolution (in connection with quality of life). Knowledge of the main types of efficient psychotherapeutic interventions in psychosomatic diseases.

8. Content

8.1. Course	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Introduction in Psychosomatics History. Theoretical models. Connection Neurobiology (neuromediators, hormones) – Psychology (dysfunctional emotions and cognitive styles) in the genesis of psychosomatic diseases Recent theoretical developments in Psychosomatics and their importance in clinical practice.	Interactive teaching, according to the syllabus, using literature data, examples of clinical cases, multimedia software (Prezi®, Powerpoint®).	2 hours
2. Cardiovascular diseases (1) Psychopathogenic variables involved in the onset and evolution of cardiovascular diseases. Description of the most prevalent PS cardiovascular diseases (high blood pressure, myocardial infarction, pectoral angina, cardiac failure, arrhythmias).		2 hours
3. Cardiovascular diseases (2) Psychological correlates of cardiovascular surgery (including transplantation). Quality of life in cardiovascular diseases. The positive role of social support in cardiovascular diseases. Cardiac rehabilitation.		2 hours
4. Respiratory diseases (1) Psychopathogenic mechanisms in respiratory diseases (examples: COPD, bronchial asthma, tuberculosis). Psychological reactions in respiratory diseases (example: bronchial asthma).		2 hours
5. Respiratory diseases (2) The issue of adherence in respiratory diseases. Psychological intervention in respiratory diseases (opportunities and challenges). Pulmonary rehabilitation.		2 hours
6. Digestive diseases (1) Psychopathogenic mechanisms in digestive disease. Functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGID). Behavior in chronic digestive diseases (examples).		2 hours
7. Digestive diseases (2) Food disorders. The psychotherapeutic approach of patients with FGID and chronic PS digestive diseases.		2 hours
8. Renal diseases Kidney stones. Urinary tract infection. Chronic renal disease. The psychological impact of end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Behavior in chronic renal disorders (examples). Behavioral modeling in renal diseases.		2 hours
9. Cancer (1) The psychological impact of cancer diagnosis. Coping with cancer. The psychological impact of cancer treatment. Quality of life in cancer.		2 hours
10. Cancer (2) The psychological assistance of cancer patients.		2 hours
11. Dermatological diseases Atopic dermatitis. Urticaria. Psoriasis. Behavioral changes in dermatological diseases.		2 hours
12. Rheumatic diseases Rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, Low back pain. Behavioral changes in rheumatic diseases.		2 hours
13. The role of psychotherapy in psychosomatic diseases (1) The balance counseling – psychotherapy. The role of the clinical psychologist in the		2 hours



The "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest
The Quality Assurance Commission

therapeutic team. Liaison psychiatry. Cognitive-behavioral therapy.		
14. The role of psychotherapy in psychosomatic diseases (2) Relaxation and hypnosis. Family therapy. Group therapy.		2 hours
8.2. Seminars	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Introduction Exemplification of psychosomatic cases illustrative for the connection Neurobiology (neuromediators, hormones) – Psychology (dysfunctional emotions and cognitive styles). Examples of current tendencies in Psychosomatics (e.g., the role of the clinical psychologist).	Interactive teaching, according to the syllabus, using literature data, examples of clinical cases, multimedia software (Prezi®, Powerpoint®).	2 hours
2. Cardiovascular diseases (1) Discussion of psychosomatic cases (high blood pressure, myocardial infarction, pectoral angina, cardiac failure, arrhythmias). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
3. Cardiovascular diseases (2) Discussion of psychosomatic cases (cardiovascular surgery). Quality of life in cardiovascular diseases. Examples of cardiac rehabilitation. Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
4. Respiratory diseases (1) Discussion of psychosomatic cases (COPD, bronchial asthma). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
5. Respiratory diseases (2) Discussion of psychosomatic cases (tuberculosis). Examples of low adherence. Pulmonary rehabilitation. Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
6. Digestive diseases (1) Discussion of psychosomatic cases: functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGID). Behavior in chronic digestive diseases (examples). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
7. Digestive diseases (2) Discussion of psychosomatic cases: food disorders. Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
8. Renal diseases Discussion of psychosomatic cases: kidney stones, urinary tract infections, chronic renal disease, end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
9. Cancer (1) Discussion of psychosomatic cases. Pathogenesis of cancer. The psychological impact of cancer diagnosis (coping with cancer) (examples).		2 hours
10. Cancer (2) The psychological impact of cancer treatment (examples). Quality of life in cancer (examples). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
11. Dermatological diseases Discussion of psychosomatic cases (atopic dermatitis, urticaria, psoriasis). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
12. Rheumatological diseases Discussion of psychosomatic cases (rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, low back pain). Discussion of effective psychotherapeutic interventions.		2 hours
13. The role of psychotherapy in psychosomatic diseases (1) The balance counseling – psychotherapy. Cognitive-behavioral therapy. Clinical examples.		2 hours
14. The role of psychotherapy in psychosomatic diseases (2) Relaxation and hypnosis. Clinical examples. Family therapy. Clinical examples. Group therapy. Clinical examples.		2 hours



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Bibliography

A. Mandatory references:

1. Popa-Velea, O. (2015). *Behavioral Sciences in Medicine (2nd Edition)*, Ed.Universitară Carol Davila, București (volume 2: pag.257-276, 277-287, 288-303, 304-319, 320-337).
2. Popa-Velea, O. (2023). *Psychosomatics*, Ed.Universitară Carol Davila, București.

B. Optional references:

3. Ginting, H., van de Ven, M., Becker, E.S., Näring, G. (2014). Type D personality is associated with health behaviors and perceived social support in individuals with coronary heart disease. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 21 (5): 727-737.
4. Chen, Q., Wu, C., Gao, Y., Chen, L., Liu, Y. (2015). A clinical study on the role of psychosomatic therapy in evaluation and treatment of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease complicated with anxiety-depression disorder. *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Medicine*, 8 (9): 16613–16619.
5. Keightley, P.C., Koloski, N.A., Talley, N.J. (2015). Pathways in gut-brain communication: Evidence for distinct gut-to-brain and brain-to-gut syndromes. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 49 (3): 207-214.
6. Olagunju, A.T., Campbell, E.A., Adeyemi, J.D. (2015). Interplay of anxiety and depression with quality of life in endstage renal disease. *Psychosomatics*, 56 (1): 67-77.
7. Malcarne, V. (2011). *Coping with cancer*, în Friedman, H.S. *The Oxford Handbook of Health Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press, pag.394-416;
8. Tosato, S., Bonetto, C., Zanini, A., Bixio, R., Marchel, M., Pacenza, G., Galvagni, I., Cristofalo, D., Fracassi, E., Carletto, A. (2022). Clinical and psychological characteristics associated with negative beliefs and concerns about treatment necessity in rheumatic diseases. *Scientific Reports*, 12: 22603.
9. Tuckman, A. (2017). The potential psychological impact of skin conditions. *Dermatology and Therapy*, 7(Suppl 1): 53–57.
10. Fava, G.A., Cosci, F., Sonino, N. (2017). Current Psychosomatic Practice. *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*, 86: 13-30.

9. Corroboration of the subject content with the expectations of the representatives of the epistemic community, professional associations, and major employers in the field of the programme of study

The appropriate training in this course offers the premises for a better understanding of the origins of somatic symptoms with a psychogenic cause, as well as a more competent choice of a certain kind of psychotherapy or counseling, if this is necessary

10. Assessment

Type of activity	Assessment criteria	Assessment methods	Assessment weighting within the final grade
Course	Knowledge of theoretical notions taught at the course	Written exam: 30 questions (one correct variant out of five)	80%
Seminar	Knowledge of notions taught at the seminar	Written exam: 15 questions (one correct variant out of five)	20%

Minimum performance standard

Correct answer at min. 30% of exam questions and passing the seminar exam

Date of filing

04.10.2023

Signature of the course
tenured coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Ovidiu Popa-Velea

Signature of the seminar
tenured coordinator

Senior Lecturer Dr.
Liliana Veronica Diaconescu

Date of approval in the
Council of the Department:

Signature of the Head of the
Department