

Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

**Curriculum  
2024/2025**

For course

**Chess and Critical Thinking**

Study program: **Medical Studies in English (R)** (elective)  
University integrated undergraduate and graduate study  
Department: **Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in Medicine**  
Course coordinator: **izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša**

Year of study: **2**  
ECTS: **1.5**  
Incentive ECTS: **0 (0.00%)**  
Foreign language: **Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

## **Course information:**

Introduce students to the basic elements of critical thinking through chess, with the aim of a more complete understanding of the decision-making process.

## **List of assigned reading:**

Lecture presentations

Gari Kasparov. (2008.). *How Life Imitates Chess: Making the Right Moves, from the Board to the Boardroom* , Bloomsbury USA (selected parts)

Neil McDonald. (2004). *Chess: The Art of Logical Thinking: From the First Move to the Last* , Batsford (selected parts)

Jonathan Haber. (2020). *Critical Thinking*, MIT Press (selected parts)

Daniel Kahneman (2013.). *Thinking, Fast and Slow* , Farrar, Straus and Giroux. (selected parts)

All required literature as well as presentations will be available to students.

## **List of optional reading:**

Mark Dvoretsky. (2006.). *Secrets of Chess Training: School of Future Chess Champions 1* , Edition Olms (selected parts)

Daniel Kahneman, Olivier Sibony, Cass R. Sunstein (2022). *Noise: A Flaw in Human Judgment* , Little, Brown and Company.

## **Curriculum:**

### **Lectures list (with titles and explanation):**

#### **Introduction: Why the subject of critical thinking?**

Students will be able to recognize and identify the key aspects of the importance of developing critical thinking in the context of decision-making processes in various life circumstances.

#### **Chess: Basic rules of the game and decision-making**

Students will be able to describe and apply the fundamental rules of chess.

Students will be able to identify the main connections between decision-making in chess and the decision-making process.

#### **Fundamental aspects of critical thinking**

Students will be able to identify and elaborate on the fundamental elements of critical thinking.

Students will develop the capability to recognize key attributes of System 1 and System 2 thinking processes.

Students will be able to articulate how this knowledge enhances their cognitive skills and analytical prowess.

### **Seminars list (with titles and explanation):**

#### **Understanding tactics and strategy in chess and decision-making**

Students will be able to explain basic tactical motifs in chess and their relationship with the decision-making process.  
Students will be able to explain basic strategic motifs in chess and their relationship with the decision-making process.

#### **Fundamental aspects of critical thinking**

Students will be able to identify and elaborate on the fundamental elements of critical thinking.  
Students will develop the capability to recognize key attributes of System 1 and System 2 thinking processes.  
Students will be able to articulate how this knowledge enhances their cognitive skills and analytical prowess.

#### **Prejudices and classic mistakes in thinking and the decision-making process**

The students will gain the ability to recognize the most prevalent prejudices inherent in thinking and the decision-making process.  
The students will be able to employ critical analysis of texts and examples illustrating various forms of prejudice.  
The student will be able to elaborate on how the skill of critical approach can help steer clear of succumbing to prejudices in the thinking and decision-making process.

#### **Presentations of students' essays on selected topics of critical thinking and decision-making processes**

Students critically analyze a selected topic related to critical thinking and decision-making processes and showcase their depth of understanding and analytical skills.

## **Student obligations:**

Regular attendance, written seminar paper and final written examination.

## **Exam (exam taking, description of the written/oral/practical part of the exam, point distribution, grading criteria):**

Assessment is carried out in accordance with the Rules of Assessment of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka: course attendance 54 (%), written seminar paper 23 (%), and final written exam 23 (%).

**Other notes (related to the course) important for students:**

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## COURSE HOURS 2024/2025

### Chess and Critical Thinking

<b>Lectures</b> (Place and time or group)	<b>Seminars</b> (Place and time or group)
<b>14.10.2024</b>	
Introduction: Why the subject of critical thinking?: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Z5 (16:15 - 17:00) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul> Chess: Basic rules of the game and decision-making: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Z5 (17:00 - 18:30) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>	
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša [1602]	
<b>21.10.2024</b>	
Fundamental aspects of critical thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Z5 (16:30 - 17:15) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>	
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša [1602]	
<b>23.10.2024</b>	
Fundamental aspects of critical thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Z5 (16:15 - 17:00) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>	Understanding tactics and strategy in chess and decision-making: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Z5 (17:00 - 17:45) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša [1602]	
<b>31.10.2024</b>	
	Understanding tactics and strategy in chess and decision-making: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ONLINE (09:30 - 11:00) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul> Fundamental aspects of critical thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ONLINE (11:00 - 11:45) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša [1602]	
<b>11.11.2024</b>	
	Fundamental aspects of critical thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ONLINE (13:30 - 15:45) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša [1602]	
<b>26.11.2024</b>	
	Prejudices and classic mistakes in thinking and the decision-making process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Z1 (16:30 - 18:45) [1602]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ CACT</li></ul></li></ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša [1602]	
<b>13.01.2025</b>	

	Prejudices and classic mistakes in thinking and the decision-making process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONLINE (17:30 - 19:45) <sup>[1602]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ CACT</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša <sup>[1602]</sup>	
<b>15.01.2025</b>	
	Prejudices and classic mistakes in thinking and the decision-making process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Z3 (15:15 - 18:30) <sup>[1602]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ CACT</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša <sup>[1602]</sup>	
<b>05.02.2025</b>	
	Presentations of students' essays on selected topics of critical thinking and decision-making processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONLINE (18:00 - 20:15) <sup>[1602]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ CACT</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
izv. prof. dr. sc. Horvat Saša <sup>[1602]</sup>	

### List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

LECTURES (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
Introduction: Why the subject of critical thinking?	1	Z5
Chess: Basic rules of the game and decision-making	2	Z5
Fundamental aspects of critical thinking	2	Z5

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
Understanding tactics and strategy in chess and decision-making	3	ONLINE Z5
Fundamental aspects of critical thinking	4	ONLINE
Prejudices and classic mistakes in thinking and the decision-making process	10	ONLINE Z1 Z3
Presentations of students' essays on selected topics of critical thinking and decision-making processes	3	ONLINE

### EXAM DATES (final exam):

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