



Humanitarian Health

Zdrowie w kryzysach humanitarnych

1. IMPRINT

Academic Year	2026/2027
Department	Faculty of Medicine
Field of study	Medicine
Main scientific discipline	Medical sciences
Study Profile	General academic
Level of studies	Uniform MSc
Form of studies	Full time studies
Type of module / course	Non-compulsory (optional)
Form of verification of learning outcomes	Completion
Educational Unit / Educational Units	Department of Social Medicine and Public Health Medical University of Warsaw Medical Simulation Center Banacha Campus 3a Pawińskiego St., 02-106 Warsaw E-mail: msizp@wum.edu.pl
Head of Educational Unit / Heads of Educational Units	Prof. Aneta Nitsch-Osuch, MD
Course coordinator	Assoc. Prof. Krzysztof Kanecki, MD krzysztof.kanecki@wum.edu.pl
Person responsible for syllabus	Katarzyna Lewtak, MD, PhD Katarzyna.lewtak@wum.edu.pl
Teachers	Assoc. Prof. Krzysztof Kanecki, MD Katarzyna Lewtak, MD, PhD

2. BASIC INFORMATION

Year and semester of studies	IV year, summer, and winter semester	Number of ECTS credits	2.00
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FORMS OF CLASSES	Number of hours	ECTS credits calculation
Contacting hours with academic teacher		
Lecture (L)		
Seminar (S)	30 (e-learning)	1.2
Classes (C)		
e-learning (e-L)		
Practical classes (PC)		
Work placement (WP)		
Unassisted student's work		
Preparation for classes and completions	20	0.8

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

O1	To understand the principles of organization, coordination, and management of humanitarian relief services.
O2	To understand the public health consequences of natural disasters and conflict, and strategies to reduce the health impacts of emergencies.
O3	To develop the ability to assess emergency situations, identify specific health needs of the affected populations, plan and implement interventions to meet these needs, and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of assistance provided.

4. STANDARDS OF LEARNING – DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS OF LEARNING

Code and number of the effect of learning in accordance with standards of learning	Effects in the field of: <i>(in accordance with appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 26th of July 2019)</i>
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Knowledge – Graduate* knows and understands:

D.W1	social dimension of health and disease, influence of society (family, social relationships network) and social inequalities on health condition, as well social and cultural differences and the roles of social stress in health and self-destructive behaviours;
D.W2	social factors affecting behaviours in health and disease, especially a chronic disease;
D.W3	forms of violence, models explaining family and institutional violence, social conditions of various forms of violence and the role of a medical doctor in recognising violence;
D.W4	social approaches to the meaning of health, illness, disability and aging, social consequences of illnesses, disability and socio-cultural barriers, as well as the applicable concept of life quality conditioned by health condition;
D.W8	how healthcare institutions operate and the social role of physicians;

D.W12	role of stress in etiopathogenesis and the progress of the disease and recognises the mechanisms of coping with stress;
D.W14	rules of promotion of health, its objectives and main directions of operation, with a special focus on the awareness of healthy lifestyle;
D.W16	main concepts, theories and ethical rules as the general framework for the appropriate interpretation and analysis of moral and medical problems;
D.W17	rights of patients;
E.W1	environmental and epidemiological determinants of the most common illnesses;
E.W2	rules of nutrition of healthy and sick children, protective vaccinations and routine children's health checks;
E.W20	symptoms of mental disorders in the course of somatic diseases and their impact on the course of the underlying disease, as well as the forecasts and principles of treating such disorders;
E.W33	procedures in the case of detection of an infectious disease;
E.W34	causes, symptoms, diagnostics and therapy principles in the most common bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases, including pneumococcal diseases, viral hepatitis, AIDS, sepsis and nosocomial infections;
E.W38	causes, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the most common diseases and the specific problems in the family practice;
G.W1	health assessment methods of an individual and a population, disease and medical procedure classification;
G.W2	ways of identification and examination of risk factors, advantages and disadvantages of different epidemiological study methods and cause-effect relation measures;
G.W3	epidemiology of infectious and chronic diseases, methods of prevention at different stages of the disease natural history and the roles of epidemic surveillance;
G.W4	term of public health, its purposes, objectives, as well as the structure and organisation of the healthcare system at the national and global levels, as well as the influence of economic conditions on healthcare availability;
G.W5	legal regulations relating to granting healthcare benefits, patient rights, the basics of the profession of a physician and functioning of the medical self-government;
G.W6	basic regulations concerning the organisation and financing of the healthcare system, the general health insurance and the rules of organisation of healthcare entity enterprises;

Skills– Graduate* is able to:

B.U10	use databases, including the Internet and search for needed information with available tools;
C.U16	assess environmental threats and use the basic methods to detect the presence of harmful factors (biological and chemical) in biosphere;
D.U1	include patient's subjective needs and expectations resulting from the socio-cultural background in the entire therapeutic process;
D.U3	choose a treatment causing minimum social consequences to a sick person;
D.U11	apply the basic psychological interventions of motivational and supportive character;
D.U13	respect ethical standards in professional activities;
D.U15	observe patient's rights;
D.U17	critically analyse the medical bibliography (also in English) and draw conclusions;

E.U14	recognise immediate threats to life;
E.U16	plan diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive treatment;
E.U27	qualify a patient for vaccinations;
G.U1	describe the demographic structure of a population and assess the population's health problems on this;
G.U2	collect information about the presence of the factors of risk of infectious and chronic diseases and plan preventive actions at various levels of prevention;
G.U3	interpret the incidence of diseases and disability;
G.U4	assess the epidemic situation of diseases common in the Republic of Poland and worldwide;

* In appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 26th of July 2019 „graduate”, not student is mentioned.

5. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF LEARNING <i>(non-compulsory)</i>	
Number of effect of learning	Effects in the fields of:
Knowledge – Graduate knows and understands:	
K1	the relationships between humanitarian crises and the occurrence of diseases and health-related problems.
	public health response systems in humanitarian crises.
Skills– Graduate is able to:	
S1	assess the health needs of different social groups in the context of humanitarian crises.
S2	design public health interventions, including surveillance, vaccination and WASH measures.
Social Competencies – Graduate is ready for:	
SC1	understanding and acknowledging the role of national and international institutions in coordinating public health responses.
SC2	intersectoral cooperation and collaborative actions with national and international stakeholders to effectively respond to humanitarian crises.

6. CLASSES		
Form of class	Class contents	Effects of Learning
(S) seminar 1 synchronous online	Health, public health, global health and humanitarian health	D.W1, D.W2, D.W3, D.W14, D.W16, D.W17, E.W1, G.W1, G.W2, G.W4, D.U13, D.U15, D.U17, E.U14, G.U1, G.U4,
(S) seminar 2 synchronous online	Ethical principles, human rights and main legal framework in humanitarian crises	D.W16, D.W17, G.W5, D.U1, D.U3, D.U13, D.U15,
(S) seminar 3 synchronous online	Infectious diseases and humanitarian crises	E.W1, E.W2, E.W33, E.W34, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, E.U14, E.U27, G.U2, G.U4,

(S) seminar 4 synchronous online	Vaccination in humanitarian emergencies	E.W2, E.W33, E.W34, E.W38, G.W3, E.U14, E.U27, G.U2
(S) seminar 5 synchronous online	Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)	D.W14, E.W1, E.W2, E.W34, C.U6,
(S) seminar 6 synchronous online	Non-communicable diseases in humanitarian settings	D.W3, D.W12, D.W14, E.W1, E.W2, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, E.U14, G.U4,
(S) seminar 7 synchronous online	Mental health and psychological first aid	D.W3, D.W12, D.W14, E.W20, E.W38, G.W3, D.U11,
(S) seminar 8 synchronous online	Addressing health inequalities in vulnerable populations	D.W1, D.W2, D.W4, D.W14, D.W17, E.W20, E.W33, E.W34, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, D.U1, E.U14, G.U1,
(S) seminar 9 synchronous online	Health challenges and health care in humanitarian emergencies	D.W1, D.W2, D.W8, D.W16, D.W17, E.W34, E.W38, G.W4, G.W5, G.W6, B.U10, D.U3, D.U15, E.U14, E.U16, E.U27, G.U2, G.U3, G.U5
(S) seminar 10 synchronous online	Emerging themes in humanitarian health	D.W1, D.W2, D.W8, D.W14, D.W16, D.W17, E.W1, E.W2, E.W33, E.W34, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, B.U10, C.U6, D.U1, D.U3, D.U11, D.U15, D.U17, E.U14, E.U16, E.U27, G.U1, G.U2, G.U3, G.U4, G.U5

7. LITERATURE

Obligatory

1. Public health in crisis affected populations. A practical guide for decision-makers. <https://odihpn.org/content/uploads/2008/05/networkpaper061.pdf>
2. The Sphere Handbook. <https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-Handbook-2018-EN.pdf>
3. Global Humanitarian Overview 2026. <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2026>

Supplementary

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>
2. Lancet. Health in Humanitarian Crises. <https://www.thelancet.com/series-do/health-in-humanitarian-crises>
3. Informing humanitarians worldwide 24/7. OCHA. <https://reliefweb.int/topics>
4. Médecins Sans Frontières. <https://www.msf.org/>

8. VERIFYING THE EFFECT OF LEARNING

Code of the course effect of learning	Ways of verifying the effect of learning	Completion criterion
D.W1, D.W2, D.W3, D.W4, D.W8, D.W12, D.W14, D.W16, D.W17, E.W1, E.W2, E.W20, E.W33, E.W34, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, G.W4, G.W5, G.W6, B.U10, C.U6, D.U1, D.U3, D.U11, D.U13, D.U15, D.U17, E.U14, E.U16, E.U27, G.U1, G.U2, G.U3, G.U4, G.U5	1. Quizzes, written assignments 2. Test (MCQ)	A minimum score of 70% is required for all quizzes, assignments, and the final test.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*(Please write here Information essential for the course instructor that are not included in the other part of the course syllabus, **particularly the number of acceptable tries for passing a subject (§ 26, § 27 and § 28 of Study Regulations), including exam admission passes, and e.g. if the course is related to scientific research, detailed description of, information about the Science Club**)*

Additional Information:

- The maximum number of participants per course edition is 500.
- Students have three attempts to obtain credit for the course (in accordance with §§ 26, 27, and 28 of the Study Regulations).
- The course is conducted entirely online via the e-learning platform www.e-learning.wum.edu.pl.

Course Requirements:

- All course deadlines, including those for assignment submission and completion of required learning activities (reviewing course materials and completing quizzes), will be announced in the General Information section on the main page of the e-learning course. Students are responsible for checking this section regularly and meeting all published deadlines.
- Students are required to study all learning materials provided within the course modules on the e-learning platform.
- After each module, students must complete all required quizzes and assignments. Completion of these activities is mandatory for successful course completion.
- All written assignments must be submitted via the e-learning platform and receive a passing evaluation from the course instructor.
- Students must complete all mandatory course requirements, including studying all course materials, successfully completing all required quizzes, and receiving a passing evaluation for all written assignments.
- Eligibility to take the final test is conditional upon the successful completion and positive assessment of all required written assignments.
- The course is considered successfully completed only after the student has fulfilled all mandatory course requirements and passed the final test available on the e-learning platform.
- A course completion certificate may be downloaded only after the final test has been passed and all required assignments have received a passing evaluation. However, a downloaded certificate does not constitute proof of successful course completion unless all course requirements have been fulfilled, including studying all required learning materials, obtaining passing scores on all required quizzes, and receiving passing evaluations for all required written assignments. Only students who meet all course requirements will be awarded course credit and have the course recorded in the official academic grading system.

Guidelines for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools

- Within the course, the use of artificial intelligence-based tools is permitted as a means of supporting the learning process.
- AI tools may be used as supportive resources, including for searching and organizing information, analyzing problems, generating a range of possible solutions, and supporting the process of creating and editing texts, while maintaining principles of academic integrity and the Evidence-Based Medicine approach.
- The use of AI tools requires compliance with academic integrity principles, in particular: declaring the use of AI tools in submitted work, maintaining independence in conducting analyses, interpreting results, and formulating conclusions, as well as respecting data protection, information confidentiality, and copyright regulations.
- It is not permitted to: present AI-generated content as one's own original work, use AI-generated responses uncritically as scientific sources of knowledge, or replace the process of reasoning and scientific evaluation with results generated by AI tools.
- The use of AI tools should support the development of analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as decision-making abilities in complex situations, including clinical and healthcare system contexts, rather than replace these skills.

Important Communication Note:

Students are required to regularly check their official MUW email account, as all course-related information is communicated exclusively through the MUW email system.

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ATTENTION

The final 10 minutes of the last class of the block/semester/year should be allotted for students to fill out the Survey of Evaluation of Classes and Academic Teachers