

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB  
 FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
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 Zagreb,

	
160807	REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
Veterinarski fakultet u Zagrebu	
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	Vrijednost
	-

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Communication Skills in Veterinary Medicine

Academic year 2022-2023

Course leader: Danijel Labaš, Ph.D., full professor

Teachers: Danijel Labaš, Ph.D., full professor

Associate teachers:

First day of classes: 7 March 2023

Last day of classes: 4 April 2023

**Timetable for LECTURES academic year 2022-2023**

<b>LECTURES</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Methodological unit</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Location / time</b>	<b>Literature</b>
6/3/2023	Lecture 1. Introduction to course; Communication studies and veterinary in interaction. The veterinarian-client-patient communication	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 14-16 pm	According to obligatory literature
7/3/2023	Lecture 2. Elements of communication and its importance: from history of communication to the present time	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 8-10 am	According to obligatory literature
13/3/2023	Lecture 3. Basics of communication skills. Definition of key terms. Models of communication	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
14/3/2023	Lecture 4. Verbal and non-verbal communication	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Toxicology / 14-16 pm	According to obligatory literature
20/3/2023	Lecture 5. Types of listening. Active listening (Friedemann Schulz von Thun model)	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
23/3/2023	Lecture 6. Professional, ethical and legal aspects of communication	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
30/3/2023	Lecture 7. Communication in (new) media environment	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
3/4/2023	Lecture 8. Communication in Public Relations and crisis communication	Danijel Labaš	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature

### Timetable for SEMINARS academic year 2022-2023

[illegible]

### Timetable for PRACTICALS academic year 2022-2023

PRACTICALS						
Date	Methodological unit	Teacher	Type of practical	Group	Location / time	Literature
9/3/2023	Practicals 1. A Framework for the veterinary consultation	Danijel Labaš		1, 2, 3	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
16/3/2023	Practicals 2. Compassionate communication	Danijel Labaš		1, 2, 3	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
17/3/2023	Practicals 3. Non-verbal communication and its importance in relation veterinarian-client-patient	Danijel Labaš		1, 2, 3	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
21/3/2023	Practicals 4. Dealing with difficult situations	Danijel Labaš		1, 2, 3	Lecture Room Physiology / 12-14 pm	According to obligatory literature
24/3/	Practicals 5. Public	Danijel Labaš			Lecture Room	According to obligatory

2023	performance skills			1, 2, 3	Physics and Biophysics / 14-16 pm	literature
4/4/2023	Practicals 6. Communication in public and with media. Public relations	Danijel Labaš		1, 2, 3	Lecture Room – Department of Physics and Biophysics / 10-12 am	According to obligatory literature

### STUDENT OBLIGATIONS

Lecture attendance	The student must be present at 5 hours of lectures to achieve 3 minimum points. The maximum number of possible points from this element of the rating is 6 points.
Seminars attendance	
Practicals attendance	The student must be present at least 7 hours of practicals to achieve 8 minimum points. The maximum number of possible points from this element of the rating is 12 points.
Active participation in seminars and practicals	The student must have a minimum of 5 points for activity during the practicals. The maximum number of 10 points is obtained by 5 positive oral answers during the practicals.
Final exam	The final exam will be written. The maximum number of points a student must achieve on the final exam is 40 points. In order to achieve 24 minimum points, the student must achieve 20 points on the final exam.
Examination requirements	Student requirements are defined in the Regulations on the Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Study of Veterinary Medicine. Given the above, the student must acquire a minimum number of points from all assessment elements in order to take the final exam. <b>Article 45:</b> a student can justifiably be absent from up to 50 % of the lectures; 30% of the seminars and 30 % of the exercises.

### GRADING AND EVALUATING STUDENT WORK



Continuous knowledge-checking (mid-terms)	During the course, two colloquia will be organized with 10 questions each. In this way students can achieve a total maximum of 20 points. The student in the colloquia must have 13 points to achieve a minimum of 20 points. The maximum score obtained from this grading element is 32 points. The minimum requirements for passing on the first and second grading elements are 36 points. In order to qualify for the final exam, the student must achieve the aforementioned 36 points.
Final exams (dates)	26/4; 26/5; 27/6; 11/7; 6/9; 21/9
Form of final exam	Written.

### LITERATURE

Obligatory literature	GRAY, C. – MOFFETT, J. (eds.), <i>Handbook of Veterinary Communication Skills</i> , Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, 2010. LABAŠ, D., <i>Nonverbal communication: The Body as an Extension of the Soul</i> in: Djurdja Bartlett (ed.), <i>Body in Transition</i> , Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Zagreb, Department of Fashion Design, Zagreb 1999, 74-83. LITTLEJOHN, S. W. – FOSS A. K., <i>Theories of Human Communication</i> , Wadsworth Publishing Company, Wadsworth 2011 (10th or later edition), pp. 3-41; 79-122; 179-228.
Optional literature	ADAMS, C. L., FRANKELM R. M., It May Be a Dog's Life But the Relationship with Her Owners Is Also Key to Her Health and Well Being: Communication in Veterinary Medicine, <i>Vet Clin Small Anim</i> , 37 (2007) 1-17. HAMOOD, W. J., CHUR-HANSEN, A., McARTHUR, M. L., A qualitative study to explore communication skills in veterinary medical education, <i>International Journal of Medical Education</i> , 2014;5:193-198. <a href="#">McDermott, M. P.</a> , <a href="#">Tischler, V. A.</a> , <a href="#">Cobb M. A.</a> , <a href="#">Robbé I. J.</a> , <a href="#">Dean, R. S.</a> , Veterinarian-Client Communication Skills: Current State, Relevance, and Opportunities for Improvement, <i>J Vet Med Educ.</i> , 42(2015)4:305-14. Shaw, J. R., Four Core Communication Skills of Highly Effective Practitioners, <b><i>Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice</i>, 36(2006)2: 385-396.</b> Shaw J. R., Barley, G. E., Hill, A. E., Larson, S., <a href="#">Roter</a> , D. L., Communication skills education onsite in a veterinary practice, <b><i>Patient Education and Counseling</i>, 80(2010)3: 337-344.</b> Shaw, J. R., Bonnett, B. N., Adams, C. L., Roter, D. L., Veterinarian-client-patient communication patterns used during clinical appointments in companion animal practice, <a href="#">Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association</a> , 228(2006)5: 714-721. World Organisation for Animal Health, <i>Communication Handbook Veterinary Services</i> , World Organisation for Animal Health, 2015 (pdf).

### OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course objectives	<p>The main goal of the course is to familiarize students with communication science as an interdisciplinary and integrative knowledge of its postulates in order to solve and improve their own communication, while the specific aims of the course are the acquisition of communication skills at interpersonal, social and media level, with the acquisition of knowledge of the correct relationship and use of verbal and nonverbal communication.</p> <p>Communication and relationship between veterinarians and patient owners, as well as other public (especially media), are extremely important and have a number of effects on treatment outcomes as well as satisfaction with treatment, compatibility, clinical outcome and quality of life, patient safety, teamwork, cultural sensitivity and reduced the number of complaints about the veterinarians work, and equally affect the presentation of a real image of the profession in public.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>Students will be familiar with the anthropological, communicational and psychological approach to multiple levels of communication. In particular, they will be able to properly use verbal communication and learn to properly evaluate and interpret nonverbal communication in different social and cultural environments, with particular emphasis on the relationship between the veterinarian and the client's owner. One of the more sensitive areas of biomedicine in terms of the importance of quality communication is access to communication in severe and incurable diseases, and particularly challenging opportunities for the clients to convey bad news, to recognize his emotional reactions, to listen actively, to include him in communication, to discuss the prognosis and the risk, assist in making a decision or encouraging its acceptance. But no less important is the public reaction to complaints about the profession, mostly in the media. Students will therefore be able to use the acquired communicative knowledge and develop the skills of critical observation, presentation and analysis of contemporary communication dynamics and models, particularly in interpersonal communication, as well as communication in public and the media, and will acquire the knowledge and skills required for public relations.</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analyze and compare various types of communication;</li> <li>correctly interpret the underlying concepts - intrapersonal, interpersonal, verbal, nonverbal, social and media communication;</li> <li>argue the importance of knowing the communication dynamics and challenges of communication in veterinary;</li> <li>to describe the role of verbal and non-verbal communication in everyday and business life and prepare to talk about giving diagnosis and therapy;</li> <li>analyze and interpret the verbal and non-verbal communication of their interlocutors;</li> <li>use the acquired knowledge about the relationship of interpersonal communication and communication in the business environment;</li> <li>to evaluate the quality of interpersonal communication;</li> <li>analyze and compare communication relationships in dialogue and persuasion in discussing the prognosis of treatment and risk communication;</li> <li>critically analyze and adopt the process of active listening in interpersonal diagnostic communication;</li> <li>to argue the reasons why it is necessary to know the communication dynamics in the everyday and business environment and how to use them in relation between veterinarian and owner of the client;</li> </ul>

critical approach to establishing communication with the public and the media and analyzing crisis communication strategies.

### GRADING SCHEME

<i>Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
Up to 59	1 (F)
60-68	2 (E)
69-76	2 (D)
77-84	3 (C)
85-92	4 (B)
93-100	5 (A)



Course leader:

Danijel Labaš, PhD, Full Professor



Head of Department/Clinic:

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**Note:** The course leader is required to submit a Course Syllabus to all teachers and associates pertaining to the Course.