

**A COURSE SYLLABUS – DOCTORAL SCHOOL**  
REGARDING THE QUALIFICATION CYCLE FROM 2025/2026 TO 2028/2029.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE				
Course title	<b>OPTIONAL SPECIALISED SUBJECT: WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) – application in clinical practice and scientific research.</b>			
Name of the unit running the course	Doctoral School at the University of Rzeszów			
Type of course ( <i>obligatory, optional</i> )	optional specialised			
Year and semester of studies	year I, semester: II,			
Discipline	health sciences			
Language of Course	Polish/English			
Name of Course coordinator	<b>Agnieszka Sozańska, PhD, Prof. UR</b>			
Name of Course lecturer	<b>Agnieszka Sozańska, PhD, Prof. UR</b>			
Prerequisites	In-depth knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of diseases. Knowledge of English at B2 CEFR level,			
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE (100-200 words)				
<p>The aim of the OPTIONAL SPECIALISED SUBJECT: <b><i>WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) – application in clinical practice and scientific research</i></b>, is to organise and deepen doctoral students' knowledge of the biopsychosocial concept of health and the role of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in describing human functioning. Examples of scientific research on the use of the ICF in clinical practice and health sciences research will be presented. The results of previous research using the ICF will be analysed, as well as the opportunities and barriers to the development of research based on this classification in the context of contemporary health care challenges. The course also aims to consolidate doctoral students' knowledge, skills and social competences in the independent, critical and methodologically correct preparation of scientific publications in which the ICF is part of the research concept or methodology.</p>				
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND METHODS OF EVALUATING LEARNING OUTCOMES				
Learning outcome	The description of the learning outcome defined for the course	Relation to the degree programme outcomes (symbol)	Learning Format (Lectures, classes,...)	Method of assessment of learning outcomes (e.g. test, oral exam, written exam, project,...)
<b>Knowledge (NO.)</b>	<b><i>Knows and understands, expresses knowledge</i></b>			
<b>P8S_WG1</b>	He has extensive and in-depth theoretical knowledge, backed by research experience, and is familiar with the current scientific achievements concerning the WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in the context of scientific research and clinical practice, which he/she uses to objectively refer to existing paradigms and models of	P8S_WG	lecture, workshops	oral examination

	understanding health, disability and human functioning in health sciences.			
<b>P8S_WG2</b>	Has extensive knowledge and is familiar with the latest global scientific achievements and research directions, as well as global development trends in the use of the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in scientific research and clinical practice in the field of health sciences.	P8S_WG	lecture, workshops	oral examination
<b>P8S_WG3</b>	Knows, understands and applies scientific terminology appropriate to the discipline of health sciences and related disciplines, including terminology related to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), in Polish and in a foreign language leading in the discipline.	P8S_WG	seminar	oral examination
<b>P8S_WK1</b>	Has knowledge of the impact of scientific developments, research methods and conceptual tools used in health sciences on the progress of civilisation, including the discovery of new possibilities related to understanding human functioning, disability and health in terms of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).	P8S_WK	seminar	oral examination
<b>Skills (no.)</b>	<b><i>Able to</i></b>			
<b>P8S_UW1</b>	Based on interdisciplinary knowledge in the field of health sciences and related disciplines, they are able to formulate and set research objectives related to research on human functioning, disability and health, in which the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is part of the research concept or methodology. They are able to identify, select and improve research methods, techniques and tools, as well as draw constructive conclusions based on the results of their research work.	P8S_UW	seminar	oral examination
<b>P8S_UW2</b>	On the basis of available interdisciplinary scientific publications, they are able to recognise, formulate and solve a research problem that may form the basis for a new element of scientific output, including a scientific publication, taking into account the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as part of the research concept or methodology.	P8S_UW	seminar	artistic project

P8S_UW3	Is able to use their interdisciplinary knowledge and research experience to analyse and evaluate scientific achievements, expert opinions and other studies in the field of health sciences, including works using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), formulating their own, including critical, judgements and conclusions on this basis.	P8S_UW	seminar	oral examination
P8S_UK6	Is able to carry out and present scientific work, actively participate in the national and international scientific and professional community, communicating in a foreign language at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.	P8S_UK	seminar	oral examination
<i>Social competence (no.)</i>	<i>Ready to</i>			
P8S_KK3	Is ready to exchange ideas, conduct substantive scientific discussions and solve cognitive and practical problems using their knowledge of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).	P8S_KK	seminar	Written assignment, oral examination

#### LEARNING FORMAT – NUMBER OF HOURS

Semester (no.)	Lectures	Seminars	Lab classes	Internships	others	ECTS
IV and VI	-	15	-	-	-	2

#### METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- seminar
- project
- discussion

#### COURSE CONTENT

##### Seminar:

##### 1. The International Classification of Functioning (ICF) as a conceptual framework for research on health and disability

- ICF and models of understanding health and disability.
- The biopsychosocial paradigm of health in scientific research.
- ICF as a language for describing functioning in clinical and population studies.
- Limitations and criticism of ICF in scientific literature.

##### 2. Operationalisation of the concept of functioning in scientific research – structure and components of ICF

- ICF structure: body functions and structures, activity and participation, contextual factors.
- Application of ICF components in research design.
- Functioning profiles as an element of scientific analysis
- ICF and other classifications and tools for describing health.

### 3. ICF as an element of clinical and observational research methodology

- Selection of ICF categories depending on the research objective
- Qualifiers as a tool for operationalising research variables
- Categorical profiles in data analysis
- Reliability, validity and repeatability of ICF-based research

### 4. Review and critical analysis of scientific research using ICF

- Analysis of selected scientific publications in the field of health sciences
- Ways of using ICF as part of a research concept or methodology
- Strengths and weaknesses of ICF-based research
- Identification of research gaps and potential directions for further research

### 5. Designing a scientific publication using ICF

- ICF in the structure of a scientific publication (introduction, methods, results, discussion)
- ICF as a framework

## COURSE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1) Written final examination. The scope of the examination covers the content of the seminars as well as the content of a scientific article indicated by the lecturer (in Polish or English). Assessment criteria:

5.0 – demonstrates knowledge of the course content at a level of 93%-100%

4.5 – demonstrates knowledge of the course content at a level of 85%-92%

4.0 – demonstrates knowledge of the course content at a level of 77%-84%

3.5 – demonstrates knowledge of the course content at a level of 69%-76%

3.0 – demonstrates knowledge of the course content at a level of 60%-68%

2.0 – demonstrates knowledge of the course content below 60%

2) Completion of a team project resulting in a scientific publication in which the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is part of the research concept or methodology.

#### Very good rating (5.0)

- a scientific publication prepared at a high substantive level, in accordance with the publishing requirements appropriate for the selected form of publication;
- a clearly and accurately defined research problem and ambitious research objectives;
- consistent, justified and in-depth use of ICF as part of the research concept or methodology;
- high quality of literature analysis, methodological correctness and mature interpretation of results;
- ability to critically analyse and independently formulate conclusions of high cognitive value;
- very high level of substantive involvement and contribution to the work of the team;
- active participation in scientific discussions during classes.

#### Good plus (4.5)

- scientific publication prepared correctly in terms of content and form, with minor shortcomings;
- correctly formulated research problem and objectives;
- ICF incorporated into the research concept or methodology in a generally consistent manner;
- good literature analysis and methodological correctness;
- active contribution to the implementation of the team project.

#### Good grade (4.0)

- scientific publication meeting basic substantive and formal requirements;
- research problem and objectives of moderate complexity;
- correct but limited use of ICF;
- satisfactory literature review and methodological correctness;
- moderate but clear contribution to the team's work.

#### Satisfactory plus rating (3.5)

- scientific publication of limited substantive value;
- research problem and objectives formulated in general terms;
- fragmentary or poorly justified reference to ICF;
- superficial analysis of the literature and limited methodological consistency;
- low but sufficient contribution to the team project.

**Satisfactory grade (3.0)**

- scientific publication meeting minimum formal requirements;
- poorly defined research problem and objectives;
- marginal or inconsistent reference to ICF;
- numerous shortcomings in literature review and methodology;
- minimal contribution to team work.

**Fail (2.0)**

- no scientific publication prepared or work that does not meet basic substantive requirements;
- lack of a coherent research concept and objectives;
- no reference to ICF or incorrect use of it;
- lack of involvement in team work;
- failure to achieve the intended learning outcomes

**Conditions for passing the course:**

- obtaining a positive grade on the test;
- completion of a team project resulting in the preparation of a scientific publication and obtaining a positive grade for its results;
- active and regular participation in classes.

**TOTAL PhD STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES  
– NUMBER OF HOURS AND ECTS CREDITS**

Activity	Number of hours
Scheduled course contact hours	<b>15</b>
Other contact hours involving the teacher (consultation hours, examinations)	<b>1</b>
Non-contact hours – student's own work (preparation for classes or examinations, project, etc.)	<b>44</b>
<b>Total number of hours</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Total number of ECTS credits</b>	<b>2 ECTS</b>

**INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Compulsory literature:	Handbook: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) 2001, Polish translation 2009
Complementary literature:	<i>Agnieszka Ćwirlej-Sozańska, Anna Wilmowska-Pietruszyńska, International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health – a biopsychosocial model, Occupational Safety – Science and Practice, CIOP-PIB, Warsaw, 2015, 8 (527), 10-13</i>

*\*(1 erts credit correspondes to 25–30 hours of total workload of the doctoral student, needed to achieve the intended outcomes)*

.....  
Date and signature of the subject instructor

.....  
Approval of the Head of the Unit or an authorized person