IM 621

Clinical Tropical Medicine Clerkship
Selective/Elective Clerkship Rotation Syllabus

Osteopathic Medical Specialty
Mary Hughes DO
Chairperson, Instructor of Record

Course Directors
Terrie Taylor DO, Karl Seydel MD, PhD
ttmalawi@msu.edu

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For all questions regarding content or administrative aspects of this course, contact

Course Assistant
Stephen Stone
stonest@msu.edu

Course Assistant
Katie Gibson-Stofflet
katie.stofflet@hc.msu.edu

At MSUCOM, we are constantly working to improve our curriculum and to meet new AOA accreditation guidelines. While major changes will generally be instituted at the beginning of the school year, most minor changes may be implemented semester to semester.

Please be mindful of the need to read your syllabus BEFORE beginning your rotations
Pre-Approval and Pre-Requisites

Pre-Approval:

- An application is required for every selective/elective rotation.
- 30-day advance application approval required (applies to a rotation add, change or cancellation)

Pre-requisites:

- Admission to a College of Medicine at Michigan State University (COM or CHM)
- Satisfactory completion of core clerkships during year 3 – no N grades on any core rotation
- Satisfactory completion of IM 618, Clinical Tropical Medicine during year 2 of the curriculum
- Satisfactory completion of Part 2 of national boards prior to September 15 of the academic year in which travel is planned (i.e. must have a passing score on file with the Registrar/Student Services of your respective college)
- Declaration of the elective rotation you will be completing - (Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics or General Surgery)

Specific Malawi Course Pre-Requisite Requirements:

- Attendance of an orientation meeting prior to departure.
- Satisfactory completion of required paperwork to travel in a timely manner as defined in the year of travel.
- Demonstration of financial feasibility.
- Submit a reflective essay/blog post prior to departure, minimum of 1 page.
- Required vaccinations completed prior to departure
- Required travel documents, i.e., passport, Visa, etc.

General Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to actively engage in patient-based, learning experiences under the guidance of a faculty member/resident (preceptor) in an international site.

Rotations are six weeks, 9 credit hours in duration. Timeframes for each rotation are decided at the beginning of January of the third year, so as to adjust the remainder of the schedule to allow for completion of all requirements for graduation.

The overall performance of course participants will be evaluated through customary assessment instruments normally employed by the department for elective rotations, at the discretion of the instructor of record.

The International Health Elective Clerkship provides an introduction for medical students to the practice of medicine in a resource-poor setting. The primary goals of this clerkship include

- Facilitating awareness of issues involved in the delivery of health care in developing countries.
- Fostering the development of the student’s professional attitude, behavior, and sensitivity to the challenges and issues of health care in developing countries.
- Promoting the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary to function in health care settings in developing countries.
- Developing a cultural awareness (customs, nutrition, traditional medical beliefs, etc.) of the patient population.
Educational/Instructional Goals & Objectives:

1. To learn the etiology, diagnosis, management, and control of local endemic and epidemic infectious diseases.
2. To provide general patient care using the resources available.
3. To learn to care for patients with the assistance of interpreters.
4. To derive differential diagnoses and develop management plans utilizing the resources available in the setting.
5. To develop professionally in a new setting (demonstrate ethical behavior, develop collegial relationships with peers and staff, devote adequate attention to emotional and physical self-care, display a willingness to be enriched by the overseas experience).

Students may augment this list with additional objectives.

In addition, course participants will:

A. Develop an appreciation of the practice of medicine as related to the specialty of the preceptor.
B. Assimilate what they learn and demonstrate their understanding of patient-care through ongoing interaction and dialogue with, as well as formative feedback from, the preceptor.
C. Demonstrate an understanding of the (seven) osteopathic core competencies (as applicable).

College Program Objectives

In addition to the above course-specific goals and learning objectives, this clerkship rotation also facilitates student progress in attaining the College Program Objectives. Please refer to the complete list provided on the MSUCOM website.

Reference Materials

Coursework from IM 618 Clinical Tropical Medicine. There is no assigned textbook. Reading assignments are under the purview of the preceptor.

Student Responsibilities

Course participants will meet the preceptor on the first day of the rotation at a predetermined location to be oriented to rotation hours, location(s), and expected duties and responsibilities while on-service.

- The student will meet the following clinical responsibilities during this rotation:
  o Students are expected to function collaboratively on health care teams that include health professionals from other disciplines in the provision of quality, patient-centered care.

- The student will meet the following academic responsibilities during this rotation:
  o Students are expected to identify, access, interpret and apply medical evidence contained in the scientific literature related to patients health problems.
  o Students are expected to: assess their personal learning needs specific to this clinical rotation, engage in deliberate, independent learning activities to address their gaps in knowledge, skills or attitudes; and solicit feedback and use it on a daily basis to continuously improve their clinical practice.
## Rotation Clinical Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Submission Method</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Requisite Requirements as per page 2 in this syllabus</td>
<td>On-line</td>
<td>Prior to departure from the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending Evaluation of Rotation</td>
<td>To be appropriately submitted per the instructions at the end of each evaluation form</td>
<td>Final Day of Rotation – be proactive as internet is often spotty in foreign countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>the determination of a satisfactory attending evaluation is governed by the College’s Policy for Retention, Promotion, and Graduation</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Evaluation of Rotation</td>
<td>“Evaluate” Link in Kobiljak Schedule</td>
<td>Final Day of Rotation – be proactive as internet is often spotty in foreign countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://Kobiljak.msu.edu">http://Kobiljak.msu.edu</a></td>
<td>(this link will activate on the final Monday of the rotation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit a copy of the work schedule that you were assigned</td>
<td>On-line</td>
<td>Within one week of end of rotation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Essay – post rotation – minimum 2 pages, double spaced, 12 point font, with your name, title of rotation, and service that you were assigned to</td>
<td>On-line in D2L Dropbox for Final Reflective Essay</td>
<td>Within two weeks of end of rotation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corrective Action Policy

THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR A CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN PRIOR TO AN ‘N’ GRADE DUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF THIS ROTATION.

Unsatisfactory Clinical Performance

A student’s clinical performance will be assessed through the Attending Clinical Clerkship Rotation Evaluation. Unsatisfactory Attending Evaluations are governed by the Policy for Retention, Promotion and Graduation (4.e).

An overall “Below Expectations” rating on Section 1 of the Clinical Clerkship Rotation Evaluation will be referred to the Instructor of Record/Department Chairperson for review and grade determination. Students who receive two or more Clinical Clerkship Rotation Evaluations with an overall “Below Expectations” rating will be referred to the COSE Clerkship Performance Subcommittee for review.

An overall “Below Expectations” rating on Section 2 of the Clinical Clerkship Rotation Evaluation will be referred to the Associate Dean/Student Services. In consultation with the Instructor of Record/Department Chairperson a determination of action will be reached.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The student will maintain an “Extended” (ET) grade until they have successfully completed all academic and clinical requirements for the course.
MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Standard Policies

The following are standard MSUCOM policies across all Clerkship rotations.

**Attendance Policy**

*Clerkship activities are mandatory and timely attendance is expected at all educational events.*

In the event a student must be absent from clerkship activities, he/she must, firstly, have prior approval from the Graduate Medical Education office (DME/DIO, Clerkship Director, and/or Student Clerkship Coordinator per the rotation sites process/policy). The clinical preceptor must also approve the absence, and determine an acceptable make-up plan which may include, but is not limited to: additional time on rotation, additional presentation(s), or written assignment(s). In the event of an emergency, the student must contact the Graduate Medical Education office and clinical preceptor as soon as the situation allows. Any exception to this attendance policy for any given rotation will be noted in the course syllabus.

Abuse of this policy, as determined by the GME office or a clinical preceptor, may be documented in a student evaluation(s) and/or reported to the Associate Dean of Student Services at MSUCOM via the Student Incident Report Form: [http://com.msu.edu/Students/Registrar/Policies.htm](http://com.msu.edu/Students/Registrar/Policies.htm) or via phone call to the Associate Dean of Student Services (517-353-8799).

**Policy for Medical Student Supervision**

*Supervisors of the Medical Students in the Clinical Setting*

The MSUCOM curriculum includes required clinical experiences in a variety of clinical learning environments. The role of the student is to participate in patient care in ways that are appropriate for the student’s level of training and experience and to the clinical situation. The student’s clinical activities will be under the supervision of licensed physicians. This supervising physician may delegate the supervision of the medical student to a resident, fellow, or other qualified healthcare provider, however, the supervising physician retains full responsibility for the supervision of the medical students assigned to the clinical rotation and must ensure his/her designee(s) are prepared for their roles for supervision of medical students.

The physician supervisor and his/her designee(s) must be members in good standing in their facilities and must have a license appropriate to his/her specialty of practice and be supervising the medical student within that scope of practice as delineated by the credentialing body of the facility.

**Level of Supervision/Responsibilities**

Clinical supervision is designed to foster progressive responsibility as a student progresses through the curriculum, with the supervising physicians providing the medical student the opportunity to demonstrate progressive involvement in patient care. MSUCOM students will be expected to follow clinical policies of the facility regarding medical records and clinical care. Medical student participation in patient
history/physical exam, critical data analysis, management, and procedures will include factors, but not limited to:

- The students demonstrated ability
- The students level of education and experience
- The learning objectives of the clinical experience

First and second year medical students will be directly supervised at all times (supervising physician or designee present or immediately available.

Third and fourth year medical students will be supervised at a level appropriate to the clinical situation and student's level of experience. For some tasks, indirect supervision may be appropriate for some students. Direct supervision would be appropriate for advanced procedures.

Supervising physicians will provide medical students with timely and specific feedback on performance. The supervising physician will complete a mid-rotation evaluative discussion with the medical student. Supervising physicians will complete a summative evaluation and are encouraged to contact the course/clerkship director with any gaps in student performance.

Medical students with any concern regarding clinical, administrative, educational or safety issues during his/her rotation will be encouraged to contact the supervising physician or clerkship/course director.

**Statement of Professionalism**

Principles of professionalism are not rules that specify behaviors, but guidelines that provide direction in identifying appropriate conduct. These principles include the safety and welfare of patients, competence in knowledge and skills, responsibility for consequences of actions, professional communication, confidentiality, and lifelong learning for maintenance of professional skills and judgments. Professionalism and professional ethics are terms that signify certain scholastic, interpersonal and behavioral expectations. Among the characteristics included in this context are the knowledge, competence, demeanor, attitude, appearance, mannerisms, integrity and morals displayed by the student to faculty, peers, patients and colleagues in other health care professions. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a professional manner and to exhibit characteristics of a professional student.

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**

Each individual student is responsible for their behavior and is expected to maintain standards of academic honesty. Students share the responsibility with faculty for creating an environment that supports academic honesty and principles of professionalism. Proper relationship between faculty and student are fundamental to the college's function and this should be built on mutual respect and understanding together with shared dedication to the education process. It is a fundamental belief that each student is worthy of trust and that each student has the right to live in an academic environment that is free of injustice caused by dishonesty. While students have an obligation to assist their fellow students in meeting the common goals of their education, students have an equal obligation to maintain the highest standards of personal integrity.
Faculty Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the college faculty to specify the limits of authorized aid (including but not limited to exams, study aids, internet resources and materials from senior students) in their syllabi, and it is the responsibility of students to honor and adhere to those limits. Course instructors shall inform students at the beginning of the semester of any special criteria of academic honesty pertinent to the class or course.

It is the responsibility of the clinical faculty to provide students with ongoing feedback during rotation upon request. Clinical faculty are generally recommended (though not required) to limit student assigned duty hours from 40 to 60 hours weekly (and not exceeding 60 hours). Both faculty and students are to be treated fairly and professionally in order to maintain a proper working relationship between trainer and trainee.

Course Grades

- **P-Pass** – means that credit is granted and that the student achieved a level of performance judged to be satisfactory according to didactic and clinical performance by the department.
- **N-No Grade** – means that no credit is granted and that the student did not achieve a level of performance judged to be satisfactory according to didactic and clinical performance by the department.
- **ET-Extended Grade** – means that a final grade (“Pass” or “No Grade”) cannot be determined due to one or more missing course requirements. Once all course requirements have been completed, received, and processed, the ET grade will be changed to a final grade. An “ET” will NOT remain on a student's transcript.

N-Grade Policy

- Remediation is not offered for Clerkship courses. Any student who receives an N grade in the Clerkship Program will be required to appear before the COSE Clerkship Performance Subcommittee (COSE).
Rotation Evaluations

**Attending/Faculty/Resident Evaluation of Student**

Students are responsible for assuring that his/her clinical supervisor receives the appropriate evaluation form. Forms can be accessed via the "Attending Evaluation" link in the student’s Kobiljak online Clerkship schedule.

Students should assertively seek feedback on his/her performance throughout the course of the clinical rotation. Students should also sit down and discuss the formal evaluation with the clinical supervisor. It is never a good idea to sign the form and then give it to the preceptor, but rather sit with the preceptor while they fill it out.

Students should keep a copy of the evaluation and leave the original with the Medical Education Office at the clinical training site where that office will review, sign, and forward the completed form to the COM Office of the Registrar. It is important to know that evaluations will not be accepted by the COM Office of the Registrar if submitted by the student. Any evidence of tampering or modification while in the possession of the student will be considered “unprofessional behavior” resulting in an “N” grade and review by the Committee on Student Evaluation (COSE) and/or the College Hearing Committee.

Grades are held until all rotation requirements, including evaluation forms, are received. Be sure you are using the correct form.

**Student Evaluation of Rotation**

Students will submit their rotation evaluations electronically at the conclusion of every rotation by accessing their online schedule through Kobiljak.

Exposure Incidents Protocol

A form has been developed by the University to report exposure incidents. These forms will be on file in your DME's office. You can also access the form at [www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship_program/clerkship_documents/exposure.pdf](http://www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship_program/clerkship_documents/exposure.pdf). Please make yourself familiar with the procedure and the form.

While on International Elective in Malawi, Africa you must report the incident immediately to Dr. Taylor or Dr. Seydel who will facilitate the initiation of treatment if indicated while in Africa.