IM 621
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ELECTIVE CLERKSHIP
Selective/Elective Clerkship Rotation Syllabus

Osteopathic Medical Specialties
Mary Hughes DO
Chairperson, Instructor of Record

Terrie Taylor DO, Karl Seydel DO, PhD (75% / 25% for CLIFMS)
tmalawi@msu.edu
Course Directors

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

Steve Stone
stonest@msu.edu
Department Course Coordinator

MSUCOM constantly strives to improve and advance its curriculum through innovation while assuring compliance with current AOA accreditation standards. While major changes are generally instituted at the beginning of each academic year, minor changes may be implemented semester to semester.

Please be mindful of the need to read your syllabi before beginning your rotations.
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)

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 core 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.

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
- At least six weeks in Malawi (Internal Medicine, OBS/GYNAE, Pediatrics, Surgery or Adult Accident and Emergency)
- Demonstration of financial feasibility
- Submit a reflective essay/blog post prior to departure, minimum of 1 page
- Completion of all interviewing for GME positions prior to departure
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).

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.
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 <em>the determination of a satisfactory attending evaluation is governed by the University’s Policy for Retention, Promotion, and Graduation</em></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>Student Evaluation of Rotation</td>
<td>“Evaluate” Link in Kobiljak Schedule <em>(this link will activate after the fourth week of the rotation)</em></td>
<td>Final Day of Rotation – be proactive as internet is often spotty in foreign countries</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>

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 Evaluation. A satisfactory Attending Evaluation is required for completion of the clinical requirements for the course.

Unsatisfactory Attending Evaluations are governed by the Policy for Retention, Promotion and Graduation. Evaluations with below average scores in two or more categories defined as rankings of Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory (on a scale of Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory-Exceptional) or 3 and below (on a numerical scale of 1-7) will be referred to the Department Chairperson/Instructor of Record for review and grade determination.

Any student with two or more marginal evaluations will be referred to the COSE Clerkship Performance Subcommittee for review.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The student will maintain an "Extended" (ET) grade until they have successfully completed all academic and clinical requirements for the course.
“N” Grade and Remediation

http://com.msu.edu/Students/Policies_and_Programs/Remediation_Policy.htm

A student who receives an “N” grade will be required to appear before the Committee on Student Evaluation (COSE) Clerkship Performance Subcommittee for review of the student's overall performance. The Subcommittee may recommend that the student who has received an “N” grade be permitted to remediate the “N” grade (see below) or academically dismissed. If a student is recommended for dismissal, the student will appear before COSE to have their status in MSUCOM determined. COSE will review the student's academic/clinical performance; determine whether dismissal is appropriate or if the student's circumstances warrant an opportunity for continuation in the curriculum. The student's eligibility to remediate will be determined following this COSE decision.

Remediation is the method by which course objectives will be met after receiving an "N" grade. Remediation will be offered only after the student's eligibility for remediation has been determined. It will not require additional international travel but will be completed within a base hospital system on the same topic as the international rotation.

To successfully remediate an "N" grade, a student must demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. To do this the student may be required to retake the course or enroll and participate in a College directed study course demonstrating successful mastery of the course objectives.

Upon remediation of the “N” grade, the original “N” grade remains on the permanent transcript along with the grade, “P” or “N,” for the remediation experience.

MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Standard Policies

The following are standard MSUCOM policies across all Clerkship rotations.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all scheduled Clerkship activities is mandatory.

If a student is unable to be present for a scheduled clerkship activity because of extenuating circumstances, the student is required to complete a Clerkship Excused Absence Request form. In all cases except for emergencies or sudden illness, requests for scheduled absences are to be submitted at least 30 days prior to the date(s) of absence. Absences are not approved until the form is completed with all required signatures. Once approved, the student is required to notify their preceptor of their absence within 24 hours. Failure to complete this form or obtain required signatures will result in an unexcused absence from the rotation. Unexcused absences are considered unprofessional behavior and could be noted as a mark of unprofessionalism on the student's performance evaluation, and may lead to failure of the rotation. In Malawi, Dr. Terrie Taylor or Dr. Karl Seydel will determine in real time what completion requirements will be and submit these to the Department Chair of OMS and the Registrar's office.

An absence request for the first or last day of the rotation will be denied. All absences (excused or unexcused) must be made up as specified on the Excused Absence Form as outlined under the conditions of approval. Makeup experience will be determined by the site director from MSUCOM and may include additional clinical day(s) or written assignment(s).

If a student has an emergency or sudden illness they should immediately notify the site director from MSUCOM and rotation preceptor. The excused absence request form must be submitted to the registrar's office at MSUCOM within 24 hours of the original emergency or sudden illness notification. It is understood that internet access is limited and the signed date on the bottom of the form will demonstrate compliance. It is also understood that extenuating circumstances may arise and these will be handled on an individual basis by the site director and Chair of OMS.
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 local 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.
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.

Students should keep a copy of the evaluation and turn the original in to the Office of the Registrar upon their return to the United States. 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. 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. You can also access the form at www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship_program/clerkship_documents/exposure.pdf. Please make yourself familiar with the procedure and the form.