Notice to Students: Although Elective syllabi at MSUCOM have a consistent format; vitally important details differ by Elective. For this reason, you must read the syllabus thoroughly at the onset of each elective to understand what educational activities will be provided and what is expected of you.
Section 1 – Course Information

Elective Description

OST 690 is a 3 credit hour elective that provides students with an overall purpose as follows:

Enriching students’ understanding of Dominican culture and healthcare delivery system in the Dominican Republic. In addition, students should develop an understanding of disease etiology and control of endemic diseases.

Learning Opportunities

- Community medicine
- Public health
- Health disparity and inequity
- Interacting with local medical students, medical residents, attendings, staff physician, nurses, laboratorians, hospital director, and locals.
- Developing health research interests
- Considering future professional opportunities in global health
- Comparing and contrasting the U.S. healthcare system with that of the host country

Course Goals

Through didactic lectures and hands on experiences, this study abroad course will enable students to develop better knowledge and understanding of the Dominican Republic culture. This particularly designed course is to enlighten students on issues of community health, public health standards, poverty and social disparities as delineated in the learning opportunities. The instruction (hands on and afternoon didactic lectures) will focus particularly on social determinants of health and poverty-related diseases, especially in villages where the Haitian refugees are living.

Course Coordinator

Name: Sung Soo Chung  
Phone: 517-884-6620  
Email: sungsoo.chung@hc.msu.edu  
Address: 909 Fee Road, Room B320, East Lansing, MI 48824

Faculty Coordinator

Name: William Cunningham D.O., M.H.A.  
Phone: 517-353-8992  
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Address: 909 Fee Road, Room B319, East Lansing, MI 48824
Administrative Coordinator
Name: Rusti Sidel
Phone: 517-884-3789
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Address: 909 Fee Road, Room B320, East Lansing, MI 48824

Clinical Coordinator
Name: Dr. Rafaelina Perez
Email: drafelina@gmail.com
Address: National University of Pedro Henriquez Urena, School of Medicine, Santo Domingo

Local Coordinators
Name: Professor Roberto Paulino
Email: R.paulino@prof.unibe.edu.dox

Instructors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Cunningham, D.O., M.H.A.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu">william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu</a></td>
<td>517-353-8992</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sung Soo Chung</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sungsoo.chung@hc.msu.edu">sungsoo.chung@hc.msu.edu</a></td>
<td>517-884-6620</td>
<td>EL</td>
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Lines of Communication
- For content questions relating to a specific learning activity or topic during this Elective, contact: Rusti Sidel, 517-884-3789
- For absences (please refer to excused absence policy information provided at the end of this syllabus)

Office Hours
Questions concerning the elective may be discussed individually by making an appointment with Rusti Sidel, Institute of International Health, by phone 517-884-3789 or via e-mail, rusti.sidel@hc.msu.edu. The Elective Coordinator is generally available M-F 9-4 P.M. or by appointment.

Pre-Departure Requirements
- Interview with Dr. William Cunningham
- Vaccinations – we refer students to Olin Travel Clinic
- PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Sung Soo Chung
  - Travel issues
  - Obtaining visa of entry
  - Cultural sensitivity
  - Going over daily agenda
Conduct issues
○ Cultural activities

Textbooks and Reference Materials

Not required. Students are asked to go to MSU library to read citations about principles of public health, obesity, hypertension, diabetes (type 1 and 2), STDs, HIV/AIDS, maternity and childcare, as well as articles on Dominican culture.

Elective Schedule
This elective is presented for 7 consecutive days. General scheduling for the educational activities of this elective are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Times (if applicable)</th>
<th>Required Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Travel to Merida</td>
<td>Travel to Santo Domingo and hotel check-in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2        | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | • Tour of city, cultural sites, and colonial zone  
• On-site orientation (Dr. Perez & Sung Soo Chung, plus a group of medical residents). |
| 3        | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM | • Morgan Teaching Hospital (Pediatrics, Maternity, ER)  
• Fundacion Activo Clinic (HIV/AIDS, STDs, and medical imaging)  
• Cruz Jiminian Hospital (ER, cleft palate surgery, orthopedic surgery, laboratory medicine). |
| 4        | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Repeat of day 3  
Didactic lecture: Mayan culture & civilization |
| 5        | 8:00 AM 2:00 PM 3:00 PM-5:00 PM | Repeat of Day 4  
Didactic lecture: Global Health Issues |
| 6        | 8:00 AM-1:00 PM 3:00 PM-5:00 PM | Repeat of day 5  
Didactic Lecture: Maternity and Childcare |
| 7        | 7:00 AM-4:00 PM 7:00 PM-10:00 PM | Community Medicine, Village of Boca Paloma  
• Four Dominican doctors  
• Four medical residents  
• Screening for chronic disorders, anemia, malnutrition, and parasites  
• MSU students distribute toys, soap, shampoo, sanitation items, tooth brush and toothpaste.  
Shopping and Exploring the City  
Farewell dinner with Dominican doctors and medical residents |
| 8        | AM/PM | Departure for USA |
Required Assessments:
The activities required for successful completion of this elective are listed below:

One week upon return, students must submit a report (1-2 pages) of their cultural and clinical experiences to Dr. Cunningham’s office with emphasis on specific health issues, health services, and learning topics. Students should also explain how this course had impact on them and in what way.

Elective Grades
- **P-Pass**—means that credit is granted and that the student achieved a level of performance judged to be satisfactory by the instructor.
- **N-No Grade**—means that no credit is granted and that the student did not achieve a level of performance judged to be satisfactory by the instructor.
- **Remediation** - Since all of the Electives in the MSUCOM curriculum are optional, Students are not required to remediate the elective if an “N” grade is received.
- **Grade Point**- Numerical grade granted to undergraduate students only based upon performance and assessment.

Student Evaluation of the Course
We want your feedback on how to improve this course.
- **Informal Feedback**: Feel free to approach the Course Coordinator, Rusti Sidel, or any of the other course faculty with your reactions and suggestions. Or write out your comments and email them to the Course Coordinator or Faculty. From time to time, we may also convene focus groups of students, as an additional way to elicit your opinions and suggestions.
- **Formal Evaluation [if applicable]**: In addition to the above, we ask every student in the class to complete formal on-line Elective evaluation upon conclusion of the Elective. Student Elective evaluations are highly recommended [or required]. Student feedback provides Elective Coordinators with valuable information regarding their performance, the performance of their instructors and the quality of the Elective. The information gained from these evaluations is used to continuously improve future offerings of this Elective. Students can access the evaluation for at method and time expectation here.

Section 2 – Policies

Academic Honesty and Professionalism
http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Policies_and_Programs/Med_Student_Rights_Responsibilities.htm

Each individual student is responsible for their behavior and is expected to maintain standards of academic honesty and professionalism. If any instance of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is discovered by an instructor, it is his or her responsibility to take appropriate action. Such action may include giving a failing grade to the student in the Elective and/or referring the student for judicial
review and possible disciplinary action, which may include disciplinary suspension or dismissal from the College.

**Clerkship Attendance Policy**

In order to gain the knowledge and skills to successfully complete the MSUCOM clerkship program, consistent participation/attendance in program activities is essential. Any time off must not interfere with the quality of the rotation.

1. In the event a student needs to be absent from any rotation for the reasons listed below and permissible by the rotation syllabus, students may request time off.
2. Any absence (unless emergent) must be approved in advance (at least 30 days) of absence by the medical education department (student coordinator/director or DME), utilizing the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form. Students must notify rotation team and medical education of emergent/illness absences on day of absence.
3. A student may not be absent more than 2 days on any one 4 week rotation (no time off allowed for rotations of 2 weeks or less) for the reasons below (exception Interview absences or Conference absences as below).
4. Any additional time off any one rotation must be approved by the MSUCOM Instructor of Record for the course the absence will occur.

**Absence due to interviews:**

For the purpose of interviewing only, a student may be absent 4 days on a 4 week rotation (2 days on a 2 week rotation) during the months of September to January in the OMS year 4. Interview invitations must accompany the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form.

**Absence due to examinations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Maximum Time Off (includes travel time)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMLEX USA Level 2 CE/USMLE Step 2 CK/Canadian MCCEE</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSUCOM COMLEX PE Simulation at MSU</td>
<td>1 day for each scheduled simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMLEX USA Level 2 PE/USMLE Step 2 CS(Canadian Students Only)</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMAT/SHELF examinations</td>
<td>Travel time and time for exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Personal Day Absence:**

Students are allowed 5 personal days per academic year in OMS 3 and OMS 4. These days are not carried over from third year to fourth year. These are to be used for illness, physician appointments, and special events (weddings, graduations, special anniversary events) and must not exceed 2 days on any 4 week rotation (#3 above). Prolonged illness and bereavement will be handled on a case by case basis between MSUCOM Director of Clerkship and the base hospital/medical education department. Students must notify rotation team and medical education of emergent/illness absences on day of absence.

Hospital organized community events that might lead to periodic absence from rotations – student participation is encouraged and if base hospital approved, would be considered part of the rotation and not a personal day absence.
Jury duty – when obligated, student participation is not considered a personal day. Court excuses must accompany any absence. If absence is prolonged, this will be handled on a case-by-case basis between the base hospital/medical education and MSUCOM.

**Conference Absence:**
While on required/core rotations, no excused absences for any professional meeting will be allowed unless the student is presenting research in which they have participated.

a. Appropriate paperwork with proof of presentation and copy of conference agenda must accompany the form.

b. Time off in this situation will be for travel and presentation only.

While on selective/elective rotations: A student may submit a request for an excused absence to attend one (1) professional meeting, time not to exceed 3 days off rotation. The meeting agenda must accompany the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form.

**Requests for Special Accommodations**
Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [www.rcpd.msu.edu](http://www.rcpd.msu.edu). Once a student’s eligibility for accommodation has been determined he/she may be issued a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (“VISA”) form. Please present this VISA form to Cheryl Luick, [luick@msu.edu](mailto:luick@msu.edu), A-331 East Fee Hall at the start of the semester and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, labs, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

It is the responsibility of the student with accommodations to contact the Elective Coordinator two weeks prior to the start of the term, or two weeks prior to the scheduled assessment event or other planned use of accommodations. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

It is the responsibility of the student to submit or have submitted an updated version of their accommodations to Cheryl Luick each semester that a student plans to use their accommodations.

Personal vacations/family reunions, etc. are not part of this policy. Vacations can be scheduled periodically, provided all curriculum requirements will be met, with the assistance of your Student Support Advocate. Vacations will not be permitted on any core rotation or elective rotation.