

OST 690: Global Health: Dominican Republic - Clinical Immersion

Fall Semester 2025, 12/14/2024- 12/31/2024

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Faculty & Staff Information

Course Director Biosketch

Contact Information	Biosketch
 <p>William Cunningham, D.O. ,M.H.A Cunni164@msu.edu 517-353-8992 Primary Site: EL Office Hours: May Vary. Days/times available by request.</p>	<p>William Cunningham DO, MHA currently serves as the Associate Dean for Global Health and the Director of the Institute for Global Health (IGH) at the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University. Dr. Cunningham was instrumental in the formation and approval of the Masters in Global Health and Certificate program that will matriculate students in January of 2020. In his current capacity of Associate Dean, he is responsible for advocating on the behalf of the four health care colleges at MSU for the education, research and cultural awareness of their graduate students. Additionally, IGH provides Study Abroad programs for pre-professional students interested in the delivery of health care in a global context.</p>

Contributing Faculty

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Arpon Shahed, D.O, M.B.T	Shaheda1@msu.edu	517-353-8992	EL

Curriculum Assistants (CAs)

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Sabrina Vieyra Hollenbeck	Vieyras1@msu.edu	517-884-3788	EL

Who to Contact with Questions

Question, Need, or Topic	Contact Person
Course - Logistics & Details	Contact CA or CD for rooms, groups, materials, links, schedule, etc.
Course - Overall	Contact Course Directors (in bold above).
Course - Specific Content	Contact Contributing Faculty for the content (see schedule).
Absences	Contact Course Directors (in bold above).
Behavior	Submit exemplary or concerning behavior to the CGPI .
Enrollment	Inquire with MSUCOM Registrar .
Personal/Wellness Needs	Inquire with Wellness & Counseling .
Study Skills or Progression	Inquire with Academic & Career Advising .
Technical Support	Inquire with MSU IT Service Desk . Indicate COM affiliation.

Course Information

Course Description & Overview

OST 690 Global Health: Dominican Republic – Clinical Immersion is a 3-credit hour elective that provides students with an overall purpose as follows by enriching students' understanding of Dominican culture and healthcare delivery system in the Dominican Republic. The primary goal of the one-week, 3 credit, preclerkship elective course is to introduce students to the health care delivery model in Batayes of the Dominican Republic while experiencing the country's rich culture. Through the course of the week, students will explore the healthcare model by spending their days providing primary care to the local sugar cane field workers and communities. There will be lectures and presentations by Dominican Republic health care officials and clinicians and opportunities for students to closely observe and participate in the care of patients while learning about the Dominican Republic's history and culture.

Course Objectives

The American Osteopathic Association has identified core competencies essential for future practice as an osteopathic physician. These are embedded throughout our programmatic and course objectives. By the end of this course, learners should be able to:

Competency	Related Course Objective(s)
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	1. Develop communication skills and techniques with patients and local community considering language barriers (creole, Spanish and other dialects) and how to deliver treatment and health education.
Medical Knowledge	2. Evaluate patients that include but are not limited to the following medical conditions: gastrointestinal, pediatric pathologies, infectious diseases, musculoskeletal complaints, evaluation for future surgical needs and chronic illnesses
Osteopathic Principles, Practice, & OMM	3. Through ample cultural activities the students will identify aspects of culture and social determinants of health that may affect current health care conditions and outcomes. 4. OMM will be practiced in the clinical setting when appropriate
Patient Care & Procedural Skills	5. The student will be challenged to provide a thorough history and physical exam in a resource limited setting. Every patient will be reviewed and with an attending.
Practice-Based Learning and Improvement	6. The student will develop multiple skill sets by staffing the triage ward, pharmacy, laboratory area as well as relevant research projects and providing guidance and education to the patients. Each student will be encouraged to provide a case study at the end of the day to the larger student group of faculty and students.
Professionalism & Leadership	7. Our students will be interacting with medical translators from different medical fields. They will have the responsibility of being ambassadors for MSUCOM and our country.
Scientific Method & Literacy	8. Develop onsite skills to collect and analyze data, summarize the outcomes or findings of the research, as well as any impact or recommendations made.
Societal & Cultural Awareness & Advocacy	9. Develop better knowledge and understanding of the Dominican Republic history and culture, healthy policy, health issues and healthcare practices. Compare the difference and similarities to the USA health care system

Textbooks and Resources

Most MSUCOM courses make use of [D2L](#) as a course website to share materials, [Google Calendar](#) to share course schedules, [Zoom](#) to host online meetings, and [iClicker](#) to facilitate audience polling. Visit <https://bit.ly/msucomtech> for reminders on how to access and use these resources. Other course-specific resources include:

Status	Resource
Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Health Organization. Familiarize yourself with the WHO goals and also compare Dominican Republic, Haiti and USA public health statistics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ World Health Organization. (n.d.). Dominican Republic Data. World Health Organization. https://data.who.int/countries/214 ○ World Health Organization. (n.d.-b). Haiti data. World Health Organization. https://data.who.int/countries/332 ○ World Health Organization. (n.d.-c). United States of America data. World Health Organization. https://data.who.int/countries/840 • Dzau, V., Fuster, V., Frazer, J., & Snair, M. (2017). Investing in global health for our future. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 377(13), 1292–1296. https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmsr1707974
Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richards, A., Schmitz, J., & Wipfli, H. (2011). Essentials of Global Community Health: By Jaime Gofin and Rosa Gofin. <i>American Journal of Epidemiology</i>, 173(8), 968–969. https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwr029 • Reading materials regarding infectious disease pathology in the Dominican Republic & Haiti (will be shared with students)

Grading Schema

Course scores will be determined using the following formula:

$$\frac{(\text{attendance} + \text{evaluation} + \text{essay} + \text{debrief})}{(\text{total points possible})} * 100\% = \text{Final Percent Score}$$

Course grades will then be assigned based on those course scores as follows:

- **P or Pass** - Satisfactory performance has been achieved and credit will be granted if a student's final percent score is 70% or higher.
- **N or No Grade** - Satisfactory performance has not been achieved and credit will not be granted if a student's final percent score is below 70%.

Remediation is not offered for elective courses.

Grading Requirements

The MSUCOM D.O. degree program incorporates both horizontal and vertical curriculum integration, meaning course activities and assessments require ongoing development and integration of knowledge and skills acquired in previous courses. Required components include:

Required Component	Projected Points	Material to be Covered
Attendance at pre-travel orientation	10	Expectations and introductory information
Evaluation of student performance, professional behavior	5 per day/20 total	Attendance and active participation/engagement at immersive experiences and lectures
1-2 page reflection essay	50	Essay to cover student experience and perspectives based on program goals, due on the following Wednesday upon return
Daily group debriefs	4 per day/20 total	Discussion of patient cases and Dominican culture and history
Pre-trip and post-trip surveys (OPTIONAL)	0	Will be shared within 48-72 hours before departure and return

Reflection essay

Please note that your final reflection essay is due the following Wednesday after your program ends and needs to be e-mailed to: igh@msu.edu. Please note that the course faculty might indicate another email address if they prefer and they will notify in advance.

Guidelines for your reflection essay:

- Your reflection paper should be a paper on your experiences in this elective program that includes: clinical learnings, cultural experience and personal development.
- No more than 2 pages
- Font: Times New Roman, Size: 12pt. Margins: 1" *Spacing: simple*
- Include a header or a footer with your last name, country you visited and trip dates.
- Include a title for your paper
- Please e-mail your essay in PDF or WORD document

Policies & Resources

Academic Support Resources at MSUCOM

Students are encouraged to connect with [Academic and Career Advising](#) (ACA) to access academic, board, and career advising across the 4-year D.O. curriculum. As a way to acclimate to the MSUCOM curriculum, you may access ACA's [On Target](#) website for semester roadmaps, tools needed to be successful in the curriculum, and targeted resources for different learning situations. Each semester's roadmap contains course expectations, tips, potential challenges, notes on longitudinal content and skills integration, and study guides.

College or University Policies with Which Enrolled Students Must Be Familiar

Policy	Location
Common Ground Professionalism Initiative	MSUCOM CGPI Site
Computer-Based Testing	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook pp. 39-43
Disability & Reasonable Accommodation	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook p. 13
iClicker	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook p. 36
Mandatory Class Sessions & Examinations	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook p. 43
Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities	Office of Spartan Experiences Site
MSUCOM Academic Code of Professional Ethics	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook pp. 66-67
Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook pp. 68-72
Preclerkship Attendance & Absence	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook pp. 43-45
Relationship Violence & Sexual Misconduct & Title IX	Office for Civil Rights & Title IX Education & Compliance Site
Religious Observance Policy	Office of the Registrar Site
Remediation	MSUCOM D.O. Student Handbook p. 39

Student Feedback

MSUCOM values student feedback, using this to model practice-based learning and improvement and to promote continuous quality improvement of learning experiences.

Route	Description
Informal	We invite you to respectfully provide constructive suggestions to Course Directors, Contributing Faculty, or Curriculum Assistants at any time.
Formal	MSU sends a Student Perceptions of Learning Survey (SPLS) to enrolled students at the conclusion of each course to gain feedback on the course and Course Directors.

Course Schedule and Changes to Schedule or Requirements

Due to external circumstances (e.g., weather/maintenance closures, clinical obligations, student cohort needs, etc.), course requirements published in the course syllabus and/or course schedule may be subject to change. Timely communication regarding changes will be provided to enrolled students via the course [D2L](#) site, [Google Calendar](#), and/or [MSU email](#). Contact curriculum assistants with questions. Any changes made will be considerate of the [MSU Code of Teaching Responsibility](#) and the [Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Addendum: Course Schedule

Updated 06.18.24

Day/Date	Times	Required Activities	Specific Information	Notes
Friday, December 13		Faculty arrive, transport to hotel		
Saturday, December 14		Students depart US and arrive in Santo Domingo, transport to hotel		Mandatory
Sunday, December 15		Morning, class orientation and welcome, preparation for DR activities Afternoon: Excursion to Santo Domingo, city tour, welcome dinner	Lecture: OTC's, vitamins and role while managing and dispensing medications during the clinic days.	Mandatory Optional excursion but highly recommended
Monday, December 16		Morning: Lecture Afternoon: Lecture	Lecture: The healthcare system in the DR; Dominican Batey, social and health issues.	Mandatory
Tuesday, December 17		Morning: Visit and clinical work at a Batey Afternoon: Working lunch, continues clinical work Evening: Dance lessons		Mandatory
Wednesday, December 18		Morning: Visit and clinical work at a Batey Afternoon: Working lunch, continues clinical work Evening: Cultural excursion		Mandatory
Thursday, December 19		Morning: Clinical work at Batey Afternoon: Working lunch, continues clinical work Evening: Free		Mandatory
Friday, December 20		Morning: Lecture	Patient case lectures at UCE with MSU faculty	Mandatory

Day/Date	Times	Required Activities	Specific Information	Notes
		Afternoon: Cultural Activities and final debriefing session Evening: Farewell dinner		
Saturday, December 21		Depart to U.S. Transport from hotel to airport		Mandatory