

OST 690 – Global Health: Dominican Republic – Clinical Immersion

Spring Semester 2024

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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 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, pre-clerkship 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 Goals

Through didactic lectures and immersive experiences, this study abroad course will enable students to develop better knowledge and understanding of the Dominican Republic culture, health issues and healthcare practices. This particularly designed course is to provide an introduction to the structure and function of the Dominican Republic Health System, and to immerse the student in the culture of the Dominican Republic. The student will be challenged through providing clinical care, lectures, and observation in order to provide optimal care to the patient with limited resources. An important aspect to this immersion program is to be able to identify cultural norms that may lead to barriers in delivering health care. Lastly, the program will provide ample cultural activities and opportunities for students to identify those aspects of culture that might affect current health care conditions.

Course Director

(Note - Preferred method of contact is shown in italics)

Name: William Cunningham, D.O., M.H.A.

Phone: 616-340-4293

Email: cunni164@msu.edu (preferred method)

Address: 909 Wilson Rd. B319 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824

Staff or Student Coordinator

Name: Sabrina Vieyra Hollenbeck, B.A.

Phone: 517.353.8992

Email: igh@msu.edu (preferred method)

Address: 909 Wilson Rd., Room B301 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48823

Instructors

Name	Email	Phone	Site
Dr. William Cunningham	Cunni164@msu.edu	616-340-4293	EL

Name	Email	Phone	Site
Dr. Arpon Shahed	Shaheda1@msu.edu	248-607-1442	EL

Lines of Communication

- For administrative aspects of the Course: contact the course coordinator.
- For content questions relating to a specific lecture or topic: contact the faculty presenter for that specific portion of the course or your on-site instructor.
- For absences/missed exams (see excused absence information below)

Office Hours

Questions concerning the course may be discussed individually by making an appointment with the Student Coordinator, Ms. Sabrina Veyra Hollenbeck by phone at 517.884.3788 or via e-mail: igh@msu.edu. The student coordinator is generally available Monday-Friday between 8:00am-5:00pm, and by appointment.

Textbooks and Reference Materials

Required

- World Health Organization. Familiarize yourself with the WHO goals and also compare Dominican Republic, Haiti and USA public health statistics.
 - 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. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 377(13), 1292–1296. <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmsr1707974>

Recommended

- Richards, A., Schmitz, J., & Wipfli, H. (2011). Essentials of Global Community Health: By Jaime Gofin and Rosa Gofin. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 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)
- **Pre-Departure Requirements**
 - Vaccinations – Check with Olin Travel Clinic
 - Orientation presentations prior to travel (Please contact Study Abroad office for location and hours)
 - Travel Issues
 - Obtaining a visa of entry

- Conduct Issues
- Cultural Activities
- Weekly/daily agenda
- Pre-trip survey – link will be provided within 72hrs prior to travel

Elective Schedule

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

Day/Date	Times (if applicable)	Required Activities	Specific Information
Friday, March 01		Faculty arrive, transport to hotel	
Saturday, March 2		Students depart US and arrive in Santo Domingo, transport to hotel	
Sunday, March 3		Morning, class orientation and welcome, preparation for DR activities Afternoon: Excursion to Santo Domingo, city tour, welcome dinner	
Monday, March 4		Morning: Lecture Afternoon: Lecture	Lecture: The healthcare system in the DR; Dominican Batey, social and health issues.
Tuesday, March 5		Morning: Visit and clinical work at a Batey Afternoon: Working lunch, continues clinical work Evening: Dance lessons	
Wednesday, March 6		Morning: Visit and clinical work at a Batey Afternoon: Working lunch, continues clinical work Evening: Cultural excursion	
Thursday, March 7		Morning: Clinical work at Batey Afternoon: Working lunch, continues clinical work Evening: Free	
Friday, March 8		Morning: Lecture Afternoon: Cultural Activities and final debriefing session Evening: Farewell dinner	Patient case lectures at UCE with MSU faculty
Saturday, March 9		Depart to U.S. Transport from hotel to airport	

Required Exams/Assessments

There will be daily reflection essays/journaling assessments in OST 690 Global Health: Dominican Republic – Clinical Immersion this semester. Your participation, professionalism and scores on journal assignments will determine your grade in the course. There will be also optional pre-trip and post- trip surveys that are optional to complete. The assessment schedule is as follows:

Required (if applicable)	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, due one week after 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

Please note that your final reflection essay is due the following Wednesday after your program ends and needs to be e-mail to: igh@msu.edu

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"
- 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

Required Proctoring Arrangements

N/A.

Elective Grades

A student's course grade is determined by the following formula:

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

- **P-Pass**—means that credit is granted and that the student achieved a level of performance judged to be satisfactory by the instructor. To obtain a “P” grade for this course, a student must obtain a total of 75 points.
- **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. A student who accumulates less than 75 points will receive an “N” grade.
- Remediation - Since elective courses in the MSUCOM preclerkship curriculum are optional, students are not required to remediate the elective if an “N” grade is received, and no remediation option is available.

Student Evaluation of the Course

We want your feedback on how to improve this course.

- Informal Feedback: Feel free to approach the Course Director, Dr. William Cunningham, or any of the other course faculty with your reactions and suggestions. Or write out your comments and email them to the Course Director 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: 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. 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 the following links: PRE DEPARTURE SURVEY: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9EnQgbxmB4x60v4 to be completed at least 1 hour prior to departure; POST ARRIVAL SURVEY: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4YnVgf1R3zUtVbw to be completed within 72 hours of return.

Section 2 – Policies

Please refer to the <https://com.msu.edu/current-students/student-handbook-course-catalog> for these and other policies.

Academic Honesty and Professionalism

Every student is responsible for their behavior and is expected to adhere to all MSU and MSUCOM policies of academic honesty and professionalism, as outlined in the MSUCOM Student Handbook and the MSU Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities. These documents may be found on the MSUCOM website. Additional guidance on academic integrity may be found on the MSU Ombudsperson’s website at <https://ombud.msu.edu/resources-self-help/academic-integrity>.

Incidents of academic dishonesty or professional misconduct will be addressed by the faculty, administration, or staff; such action may include, but is not limited to: giving a failing grade, referring a student for judicial review, directing the student to the Associate Dean of Medical Education, evaluation by the Committee on Student Evaluation, and other actions outlined in the Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities document.

Types of Class Sessions

MSUCOM designates lectures and other class sessions by their delivery method. While additional terms may be used in a specific course, the following will provide general guidance to the type of session:

- Live or livestream lecture: broadcast at a designated time; intended to be viewed synchronously
- Online Lecture: recorded content, may be viewed asynchronously
- Webinar: more interactive session where student participation is expected
- Lab: may refer to on-site clinical skills training or online lab session; see details

Changes to Course Schedule or Requirements

Due to external circumstances, the course requirements published in the course syllabus and/or course schedule may be subject to change. Timely notification Communication regarding changes will be provided to enrolled students via the course D2L site and/or email. Any changes made will consider the MSU Code of Teaching Responsibility and the MSU Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Mandatory and Optional Class Sessions

All lectures and other class sessions are considered to be integral to the course, and students are expected to attend, view, or participate in each session. Some sessions are designated as “mandatory” in that attendance at the session on the scheduled date and time is required. Depending on the course, a student may earn points for attending or participating in a mandatory session or may lose points for failing to attend or participate. Availability of make-up points for missed sessions is at the discretion of the course director. Optional class sessions are offered by faculty to assist students in learning or reviewing course content.

Absences from Mandatory and Examinations/Assessments

It is the responsibility of the student to know which class sessions are deemed as mandatory and comply with the MSUCOM policy regarding absences from mandatory sessions and examinations. This policy may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook on the MSUCOM website. Requests for an excused absence must be arranged with the course faculty.

Computer-Based Testing

It is the responsibility of each student to know and comply with the MSUCOM policy on computer-based testing. This policy may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook on the MSUCOM website.

Administration of quizzes, examinations, and other assessments may be self-proctored, virtual proctored, or classroom proctored. Regardless of the proctoring method, you are expected to take the exam in a quiet, private setting. Just like in a proctored exam, you are not to access notes, textbooks, references, your phone, or other materials, and you are not to interact with fellow students or others. Remember that integrity is defined as what you do when no one is looking.

You are also expected to not record, photograph, take screen shots, make notes of, or otherwise attempt to make a copy of any exam item for any purpose, including your personal use. A student who is discovered to have cheated or breached exam security will be subject to formal disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from MSUCOM.

If you have concerns or evidence of an exam security breach on this or any exam, you may report that to an MSUCOM administrator or through the online concern form.

Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities

If problems arise between instructor and student, both should attempt to resolve them by informal, direct discussions. If the problems remain unsolved, the Associate Dean for Medical Education and/or the MSU Ombudsperson may be consulted. The MSU Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities (MSRR) document defines processes for additional steps, including submission of a formal grievance. The MSSR may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook and online at splife.studentlife.msu.edu.

iClicker Reef/(iClicker Student) Policy

It is your responsibility to know and comply with the iClicker Reef (iClicker Student) Policy. This policy may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook. If you forget your device or if it does not work, for whatever reason, no make-up experiences will be provided, and no points will be given.

If iClicker Reef/Iclicker Student is used to take attendance for an on-campus event, you will be expected to arrive to the physical location on time and to stay for the duration of the assigned activity. If iClicker Polling is used to take attendance for an online event, you will be expected to start the session at the scheduled time and participate for the duration of the assigned activity.

As a matter of professionalism, please note that under no circumstances should you provide access to your iClicker Reef/Student account to another student by sharing your device and/or account login, nor should you accept another student's device or login credentials to access iClicker Polling on their behalf. Answering questions or checking in for attendance on behalf of another student by using their device or account is considered to be academic dishonesty and may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the college.

Remediation

The MSUCOM Policy for Retention, Promotion and Graduation requires successful completion of each required course to progress in the curriculum. Remediation is not available for preclerkship electives.

Student Safety and Well-being

The MSUCOM website and Student Handbook provide information on student safety, campus security, access to medical care and counseling services, and to policies on injuries and exposures. If you have an injury or acute illness on campus, an incident report should be completed. The form is available on the MSUCOM intranet or from Academic Programs.

Academic Support Resources at MSUCOM

As a way to acclimate you to the curriculum at MSUCOM, we have created a program called On Target: <https://michiganstate.sharepoint.com/sites/OnTargetforAcademicSuccess>

On this site you will find semester roadmaps which gives a general overview of each semester, tools needed to be successful in the curriculum and targeted resources for your unique learning situation. In each semester's road map, you will also find course expectations, tips for success, potential trouble spots, longitudinal course integration, and specific course study guides.

Requests for 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 (RCPD) at 517-884-7273 or online at rcpd.msu.edu. Once eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you may be issued a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (VISA) form. Each VISA includes an expiration date; to request an accommodation, you must have an active VISA. You may work with RCPD to renew a VISA.

During the preclerkship curriculum, the college will help to coordinate accommodations for additional testing time. Provide your VISA to Nancy Thoma, thoman@msu.edu, A333 East Fee Hall at the start of the term and/or at least two weeks prior to the assessment event (test, project, labs, etc.). Requests for accommodations received with less notice will be honored whenever possible. You may choose whether or not you wish to use accommodations for a particular event. For other accommodations, you may also review your VISA with the course director and curriculum assistant assigned to that course.

Title IX Notifications

Michigan State University is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free of relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and to ensuring that all affected individuals have access to services. For information on reporting options, confidential advocacy and support resources, university policies and procedures, or how to make a difference on campus, visit the Title IX website at titleix.msu.edu.

Limits to confidentiality. Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, you should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. Instructors must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety):

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;
- Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services.

Addendum: Course Schedule

The course schedule for the current semester will be posted to D2L. Changes to the course schedule will be noted on the class academic calendar and communicated to students via D2L and/or email. The schedule for the most recent offering of this course will be posted on the MSUCOM website under Current Students/Preclerkship Curriculum.