

## **IM 618 – Clinical Tropical Medicine**

Fall Semester 2 - 2023

Updated: 26 May 2023 (TT)

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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

IM 618, Clinical Tropical Medicine, is a 2-credit hour course that provides students with an introduction to the practice of clinical medicine in resource-challenged settings. The focus of the course is on Africa, because of the clinical electives offered by MSU-COM for fourth year students, but much of the content will be relevant in other settings.

The course covers a mixture of the “classic” infectious diseases and a symptom-based approach to common syndromes. This provides the students the advantage of being able to appreciate specific infectious diseases as well as to learn how to approach patients who present with common symptoms: the differential diagnosis and the diagnostic studies are often very different.

This course serves as the prerequisite for IM 621, the Malawi elective available to final year students. Only students who pass this course will be eligible to apply for the IM 621 elective; however, **having passed IM 618 course does not guarantee that a student will be accepted into the IM 621 elective.**

**This course consists of live and recorded (asynchronous) sessions.** Weekly lectures, recorded in advance, will be available in PowerPoint in D2L. There will be four interactive sessions during the semester, during which students will work together with the course instructors **in a case-based learning format to discuss** clinical questions and scenarios.

There is no textbook; optional readings will be included in the PowerPoint presentations.

### Course Goals

1. Be able to describe the life cycle, clinical presentation and treatment of
  - a. Malaria
  - b. Schistosomiasis
  - c. Trypanosomiasis
  - d. Filariasis
2. Be familiar with the etiologies, clinical presentations and treatments of
  - a. Tuberculosis
  - b. Hemorrhagic fevers (including dengue)
  - c. Diarrheal disease
  - d. Non-communicable diseases

### Course Coordinator

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

Name: Terrie E. Taylor, D.O. (she/her/hers)

Phone: 517-353-3211 (MSU); 231-883-5948 (TC)

Email: [ttmalawi@msu.edu](mailto:ttmalawi@msu.edu)

Address: B309-B West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824  
873 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City, MI 48686

### Staff or Student Coordinator

Name: Stephen Stone

Phone: 517-884-3846

Email: [Stephen.Stone@hc.msu.edu](mailto:Stephen.Stone@hc.msu.edu)

Address: B315-A W. Fee Hall, East Lansing MI 48824

### Instructor

Name	Email	Phone	Site
Douglas G. Postels, M.D., M.S.	<a href="mailto:dpostels@childrensnational.org">dpostels@childrensnational.org</a>	505-256-4929	Washington, DC

### Lines of Communication

- For administrative aspects of this elective: Stephen Stone
- For content questions relating to a specific learning activity or topic during this elective: the relevant lecturer (TT or DGP)
- For absences (please refer to excused absence policy information provided at the end of this syllabus): Stephen Stone

### Office Hours

Questions concerning the elective may be discussed individually by scheduling a face-to-face or virtual meeting with Terrie Taylor. Please contact her by phone (517) 353-3211 or via e-mail ([ttmalawi@msu.edu](mailto:ttmalawi@msu.edu)). The Elective Coordinator, Stephen Stone, is generally available Monday-Friday, 7:30 – 3:30, or by appointment.

### Textbooks and Reference Materials

No textbook is required.

Optional reading will be listed in conjunction with each PowerPoint lecture.

### Elective Schedule

This elective is presented for ten consecutive weeks (13 Sept – 15 Nov 2022). General scheduling for the educational activities of this elective are as follows, and are subject to change pending the exam

<b>1</b>	<b>Wednesday, 13 September</b>	<b>Live - 5:00 to 7:00</b>	<b>Intro to IM 618, Intro to IM 621, Malawi elective, TT career, DGP career</b>
<b>2</b>	Week of 18 Sept	Recorded	Tuberculosis
<b>3</b>	Week of 25 Sept	Recorded	Viral Hemorrhagic fevers
<b>4</b>	<b>Wednesday, 4 Oct</b>	<b>Live - 5:00 to 7:00</b>	<b>Quiz 1 Mycobacterial and viral interactive</b>
<b>5</b>	Week of 9 Oct	Recorded	Malaria 1
<b>6</b>	Week of 16 Oct	Recorded	Malaria 2

7	Wednesday, 25 Oct	Live - 5:00 to 7:00	Quiz 2 Malaria interactive
8	Week of 30 Oct	Recorded	Filariasis, non-communicable diseases
9	Week of 06 Nov	Recorded	Trypanosomiasis, schistosomiasis
10	Wednesday, 15 Nov	Live - 5:00 to 7:00	Quiz 3 Non-malarial parasitic and non-communicable diseases interactive
	Week of 20 Nov	Final week	Take-home exam and/or paper due by 5PM on Tuesday, 21 November 2022

## Required Exams/Assessments

To obtain a “P” in this course, students are required to attend all of the interactive class sessions, participate in the discussions, **and** to complete one of the following:

Pass ( $\geq 70\%$  correct) two of the three quizzes. These will be administered during the interactive sessions.

**OR**

Write a short (at least five pages) research paper on some topic related to a tropical medicine disease **not** covered in class (see p. 5)

**OR**

Complete the take-home exam (see p. 5)

## Required Proctoring Arrangements

- All quizzes will be administered via D2L (or another online method as communicated to enrolled students) over the course of 15 minutes at the beginning of interactive session; quizzes should be submitted by the students who wish to submit them, and the answers will then be discussed with the entire class.
- All quizzes are "closed book". Therefore, you should plan to put all books, notebooks, backpacks, etc. away during the exam. The only reasons to question the proctor or faculty during an exam are:
  - if you have a defective exam
  - if you note misprints, or discrepancies in numbering or lettering of foils
  - if you note typographical errors that change the meaning of the question
- Individual quiz results will be posted in D2L. Course faculty will review the quizzes and add appropriate comment on misconceptions via the communication tool or in class.
- In deference to your peers, if you carry a cellphone, please be sure that it is **turned off** and placed at the perimeter of the room with your personal items during the quiz. If an emergency requires otherwise, please notify the course coordinator, course assistant or proctor of the exam.
- Students will not be permitted to leave an examination setting until the quiz is finished.

- Concepts that have proven difficult to students will be explained again immediately after the quiz and will be tested again in most instances.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the exam setting without permission.
- Without exception, quizzes to be submitted for credit will be submitted at the stated time of completion on D2L. Exams not turned in by the stated time of completion will **not** be scored.

Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in no points being awarded for the examination and may result in further disciplinary action.

**NOTE: All decisions concerning examination procedures including but not limited to the viewing of written exams will be at the discretion of the course coordinator.**

## Elective Grades

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

- **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

- Attend all four interactive sessions
  - If advance notification is given for being absent for one interactive session, the student must successfully complete two of the three pass options (quiz, take-home exam or research paper)
  - If advance notice is given for being absent for two of the interactive sessions, the student must successfully complete all three of the grading options (quiz, take-home exam or research paper)
  - See below for communications regarding and consequences of being absent for the interactive sessions.

### AND

- Pass ( $\geq 70\%$ ) two of the three quizzes offered during the last three interactive sessions (see below re "Missed Quizzes")

### OR

- pass ( $\geq 70\%$ ) the take home exam

### OR

- write a 5-page research paper on a topic not explicitly addressed during class

- **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 fails to

attend a sufficient number of interactive sessions and to complete a sufficient number of grading options, as described above, will receive an “N” grade.

- Remediation - Since all the electives in the MSUCOM curriculum are optional, students are not required to remediate the elective if an “N” grade is received.

### ***Missed Quizzes***

If you have been excused from an interactive session with prior approval, you may take a makeup quiz in the office of a proctor. If you pass ( $\geq 70\%$  correct) three of four quizzes you may use this option to pass the course. *But you will also need to complete a second form of Required Assessment (either the take-home exam or the research paper) in order to pass the course.*

### ***Missed Interactive Sessions***

If you miss an interactive session **without prior approval**, you will not be allowed to take a make-up quiz. You will therefore have to pass two quizzes in order to use the “quiz option” for passing the course. *You will also need to complete a second form of Required Assessment (either the take-home exam or the research paper) in order to pass the course.* If you do not pass three quizzes, you will need to complete **both** the take home exam *and* the research paper in order to pass the course.

To obtain an excused absence, you must contact the Course Coordinator **prior to the scheduled interactive session**: Mr. Stephen Stone (Stephen.Stone@hc.msu.edu)

### **Research Paper**

Another option for passing the course is to write a 5-page paper on some topic **not** covered in class. The requirements for the paper, which should be submitted in D2L, are

- At least five pages, numbered
- 1.5 line spacing
- 1” margins
- $\leq 11$ -point Arial font
- Standard scientific writing (e.g., no “first person” voice)
- At least 5 sources, appropriate referencing, standard bibliography citing, no more than 2 on-line references
- Italicize species names (e.g., *P. falciparum*)

### **Take-home Exam**

The third option for passing the course is to take an open-book take-home exam. Students must not confer with each other about the exam. It will be made available on Wednesday, 15 November at 5 PM and is due by 5 PM (in D2L) by 5 PM the following Tuesday, 21 November.

## **Student Evaluation of the Course**

We value your feedback on how to make this elective better for the students who come after you.

- **Informal Feedback:** Feel free to approach the Elective Coordinator, Terrie Taylor, or Doug Postels with your reactions and suggestions. Another option is to write out your comments and email them to the Elective 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 Evaluations:** In addition to the above, we ask every student in the class to complete two formal elective evaluations upon conclusion of the elective (one is the standard MSU evaluation and the other is tailored to this course by Drs. Taylor and Postels).

Student feedback provides the 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.

Hard copies of the tailored evaluation will be distributed and collected during the last interactive session --- alternatively, students can access both evaluations via D2L during the last week of the elective.

## Section 2 – Policies

Please refer to the [MSUCOM Student Handbook](#) 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.

### 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 submitted via the [student portal](#).

### 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](http://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 pre-clerkship 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](http://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](mailto: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 coordinator 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](http://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 (“Google 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.