

IM 618: Global Health – Clinical Fundamentals

Fall 2025, Sept 8th to Nov 25th 2025

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Faculty & Staff Information

Course Director Biosketch

Contact Information	Biosketch
 <p>Bryan J. Vonasek, M.D., FAAP vonasekb@msu.edu 517-353-3211 Primary Site: EL Office Hours: by request</p>	<p>Dr. Vonasek is an assistant professor at MSU-COM. He finished his Pediatric Infectious Disease fellowship at the University of Wisconsin in 2024. His research focus are infections in children with severe acute malnutrition and tuberculosis in children. In addition to being the course director for IM 618 (this course), he is also the director for IM 621 (the Malawi elective). Dr. Vonasek has a long history in Malawi, having been there as a Peace Corps volunteer, a medical student, a pediatrics resident, <i>and</i> as a Peds ID fellow.</p>

Contributing Faculty: N/A

Curriculum Assistants (CAs)

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Stephen Stone	stonest@msu.edu	517-884-3846	EL

Who to Contact with Questions

Question, Need, or Topic	Contact Person
Course - Logistics & Details	Contact CAs for rooms, groups, materials, links, schedule, etc.
Course - Overall	Contact Course Director (in bold above).
Course - Specific Content	Contact Course Directors
Absences	Contact Course Directors (in bold above).
Behavior	Submit exemplary or concerning behavior to the CGPI .
Enrollment	Inquire with MSUCOM Registrar .

Question, Need, or Topic	Contact Person
Personal/Wellness Needs	Inquire with Wellness & Counseling .
Report kudos or suggestions related to inclusion in the curriculum	Submit a DO Better form. https://tinyurl.com/DO-Better-Form
Study Skills or Progression	Inquire with Academic & Career Advising .
Technical Support	Inquire with MSU IT Service Desk . Indicate COM affiliation.

Course Information

IM 618, Global Health – Clinical Fundamentals, 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 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 Objectives

1. Be able to describe the life cycle, clinical presentation and treatment of
 - a. Malaria
 - b. Schistosomiasis
 - c. Trypanosomiasis
2. Be familiar with the etiologies, clinical presentations and treatments of
 - a. Tuberculosis
 - b. Anemia
 - c. Diarrheal disease
 - d. Fever in returning travelers
3. Develop a basic understanding of issues involved in the delivery of health care and public health in low-income countries.

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)
Medical Knowledge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the epidemiology, clinical presentation, patient management, and overall strategies for disease control on a population level for malaria, schistosomiasis, and trypanosomiasis. 2. Describe the clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, clinical management, and unanswered questions for the following pediatric conditions: acute lower respiratory tract infection, diarrhea, tuberculosis, and anemia. 3. Have a working knowledge of how to approach fever in returning travelers.

Textbooks and Resources

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

Grading Schema

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

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

OR

*(2) 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

(3) 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 comments 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

- o 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

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

OR

- o Pass (> 70%) the take home exam

OR

- o 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 – Remediation is not offered for elective courses.

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	Student Handbook - CBT Policy
Disability & Reasonable Accommodation	Student Handbook - Diversity and Inclusion
iClicker	Student Handbook - Information Technology Resources
Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities	Office of Spartan Experiences Site
MSUCOM Academic Code of Professional Ethics	Student Handbook - Academic Code of Professional Ethics
Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety	Student Handbook - Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety
Preclerkship Attendance & Absences	Student Handbook - Attendance & Absences
Pregnancy and Pregnancy-Related Conditions	Pregnancy and Parenting Information Office for Civil Rights and Title IX
Relationship Violence & Sexual Misconduct & Title IX	Office for Civil Rights & Title IX Education & Compliance Site

Policy	Location
Religious Observance Policy	Office of the Registrar Site
Remediation	Student Handbook - Remediation
Student Handbook	Student Handbook

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 the Course Director or Curriculum Assistant 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 19 June 2025

Date	Time	Topic/Title	Faculty	Event Type	Notes
9/8/2025	5-7pm	Intro to IM 618; Intro to IM 621, Malawi elective; BV career	Vonasek	Live (Zoom)	Mandatory
Week of 9/15/25	N/A	Malaria 1	Taylor	Recorded (D2L)	
Week of 9/22/25	N/A	Malaria 2	Taylor	Recorded (D2L)	
9/29/25	5-7pm	Quiz 1; Interactive session on Malaria	Taylor	Live (Zoom)	Mandatory
Week of 10/6/25	N/A	Lower respiratory tract infections in children	Vonasek	Recorded (D2L)	
Week of 10/13/25	N/A	Tuberculosis	Vonasek	Recorded (D2L)	
10/20/25	5-7pm	Quiz 2; Interactive session on LRTI & TB	Vonasek	Live (Zoom)	Mandatory
Week of 10/27/25	N/A	Anemia; Diarrhea	Vonasek	Recorded (D2L)	
Week of 11/3/25	N/A	Trypanosomiasis & Schistosomiasis	Seydel	Recorded (D2L)	
Week of 11/10/25	N/A	Fever in returning travelers	Vonasek	Recorded (D2L)	
11/17/25	5-7pm	Quiz 3; Interactive session on Trypanosomiasis, Schistosomiasis, & fever in returning travelers	Seydel & Vonasek	Live (Zoom)	Mandatory
Week of 11/24/25	N/A	Take home exam and/or final paper due by 5pm on 11/25/25	Vonasek	Submissions via D2L	

