

OST 590 – Health Disparities and Health Equity

Summer Semester - 2024

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Table of Contents

Elective Description.....	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Course Goals and Requirements.....	2
Course Director.....	2
Curriculum Assistant.....	2
Course Faculty.....	3
Lines of Communication.....	3
Office Hours.....	3
Course Web Site.....	3
Textbooks and Reference Materials.....	3
Course Begin and End Dates.....	4
Elective Schedule and Assessments.....	4
Course Grades.....	4
Student Evaluation of the Course.....	5
Academic Honesty and Professionalism.....	5
Types of Class Sessions.....	5
Changes to Course Schedule or Requirements.....	5
Mandatory and Optional Class Sessions.....	6
Absences from Mandatory Sessions and Examinations/Assessments.....	6
Computer-Based Testing.....	6
Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities.....	6
iClicker Policy.....	6
Remediation.....	7
Student Safety and Well-being.....	7
Academic Support Resources at MSUCOM.....	7
Requests for Accommodations.....	7
Title IX Notifications.....	8
Addendum: Course Schedule.....	8

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 590 is a 1-credit elective that will supplement instruction around health equity and health disparities utilizing the Academic Recognition Program (ARP) provided by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). This course is intended to train osteopathic students to recognize disparities in healthcare that exist across race, ethnicity, geographic residence, gender, sexual orientation, recognition, age, poverty, and disability status. Over the course, osteopathic medical students will gain a deeper understanding of health disparities and learn how to identify and develop the skills to provide interventions and solutions toward achieving health equity.

Course Goals and Requirements

In 2022, American Association of Medical colleges (AAMC) published a report outlining the competencies in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) that can be used as a framework for introducing and integrating DEI content in medical education. In the same year, AACOM established the Academic Recognition Program (ARP) intended to train osteopathic medical students to recognize health disparities and develop skills to provide interventions and solutions towards achieving health equity. Recent calls for social justice have added the urgency to the need for increased DEI content in medical education and to prepare physicians to care for the evolving patient population while addressing the systemic health disparities and healthcare inequities in the United States. This course will utilize the modules outlined in the AACOM Academic Recognition Program supplemented by reflection sessions and exercises. By the end of the course, the MSUCOM medical students will have a deeper understanding of health disparities that exist in the US and develop skills to provide interventions towards addressing health inequities as they move on to clerkship and beyond.

Course Director

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

Name: Debalina Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D.

Phone: 517-578-9610

Email: bandyop4@msu.edu (preferred method)

Address: 4707 Saint Antoine St. Room G012, Detroit, MI 48201

Curriculum Assistant

Name: Papiya Saha, MS

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Course Faculty

Name	Email	Site
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Lauren Azevedo	azevedol@msu.edu	EL
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Lines of Communication

- For administrative aspects or content questions of the course: contact the course director.
- For absences/missed assignments (see excused absence information below).
- Please set your notifications in D2L to immediate to receive posted News announcements. You may choose to receive notifications by email or SMS.

Office Hours

Questions concerning the course may be discussed individually by making an appointment with the Course Director, *Debalina Bandyopadhyay*, or emailing her at bandyop4@msu.edu. The course director is available weekdays by Zoom (email them for an appointment).

Course Web Site

The URL for the Course website is: <https://d2l.msu.edu>

Textbooks and Reference Materials

Required:

Upon enrollment, the students will be given access to the AACOM Academic Recognition Program. As a requirement of this course, the students will have to complete the “Community and Population Health” module and nine out of the following ten modules:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Under-represented Minority Health and Disparities in Health Outcomes
- Rural Health Disparities
- Maternal Justice
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Disparities
- Behavioral and Mental Health Equity

- Health Outcomes and Health Disparities in the Elderly
- Health Inequities Related to Poverty and Education
- Disparities in Research and Clinical Trials
- The Ethics of Health Equity

Recommended

Students are strongly recommended to complete the entire program to receive a certificate of recognition and a lapel pin. To complete the program, the students need to review all course materials presented (video lectures and additional readings); earn a score of 80% or higher on the module assessments (three attempts allowed) and complete the course evaluation.

Course Begin and End Dates

OST 590 begins on May 13, 2024, and ends on August 4, 2024.

Elective Schedule and Assessments

This elective is presented for 12 consecutive weeks. General scheduling for the educational activities of this elective are as follows:

OST 590: Health Disparities and Health Equity May 13 – August 4, 2024			
Required Assignments	Due Dates	Points	Specific Information
Course Introduction	Monday, May 13	10	Live online session
Review the ARP Introduction	Monday, May 13	10	Complete all the contents under the Introduction section and mark as done
Community and Population Health module	Monday, June 17	10	Complete the lecture, required readings and the assigned quiz. Required to get either 80% or take all three attempts in the quizzes.
Nine out of the ten remaining modules in the ARP	Friday, July 12	90	Complete the lecture, required readings and the assigned quiz. Required to get either 80% or take all three attempts in the quizzes.
Reflection Sessions	Monday July 15 to Friday August 2	30	Live online Discussions
Course Expectations			
Complete and submit assignments prior to 11:59 pm (EDT) on due date. Log-in with your MSU account to ARP and for the live sessions – see detailed instructions below and in D2L. THE ARP portion of this course is asynchronous, and you will determine your individual schedule to complete the modules. Please reach out for guidance and support as needed. Please refer to the Common Ground framework of guiding principles for professional behavior: https://com.msu.edu/about-us/common-ground-professionalism-initiative .			

Course Grades

The course director determines the threshold for satisfactory performance in the elective. Your course grade is determined by completion of the required activities.

- **P-Pass:** means that you have achieved a satisfactory level of performance and will receive credit for this course. To obtain a “P” grade for this course, a student must obtain 70% or higher of the total available points (105 of 150).
- **N-No Grade:** means that you have not achieved a satisfactory level of performance and no credit will be granted for this course.
- **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. *Debalina Bandyopadhyay*, or any of the other course faculty with your feedback and suggestions. Or write out your comments and email them to the Course Director or Faculty. Sometimes, we may also convene focus groups of students, as an additional way to elicit your opinions and suggestions.

Section 2 – Policies

Please refer to the Student Handbook at <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/sites/default/files/content/Academic-Integrity-at-MSU-updated-August-2017.pdf>

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 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 Sessions and Examinations/Assessments

It is the student's responsibility to know which class sessions are deemed 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.

iClicker Policy

It is your responsibility to know and comply with the iClicker 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 is used to take attendance for an on-campus event, you will be expected to arrive at the physical location on time and to stay for the duration of the assigned activity. If iClicker 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 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 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. If you receive an "N" grade in a course, that grade will be recorded on your official transcript; you must meet the course requirement by successfully remediating or repeating the course.

Eligibility to attempt remediation of the course is determined by criteria described in the "Course Grades" section of the syllabus. If you are not eligible to attempt remediation, or if you fail the remediation, you must retake the course, provided you are eligible to continue in the program as determined by the Committee on Student Evaluation.

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 accommodation has been determined, you may be issued a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (VISA) form. Each VISA includes an expiration date; to request 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 accommodation 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

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.