OST 590 Section 758 – Cuba and The United States: A Comparative Analysis of Health Systems (Havana, Cuba)
December 2018
Updated: 07/17/2017

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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

Information
Systems Based Practices is a core competency for our osteopathic and medical students. The World Health Organization’s Commission on Social Determinants of Health recommends that: “countries must build health-care systems based on the principles of equity, disease prevention, and health promotion”. Cuba is one of the global leaders in following these principles and their public health approach to the delivery of health care is a shining example of a country that can provide health care to all of its inhabitants, albeit scarce national resources. The Cuban physician is very well trained in the diagnosis and prevention of disease. They do not have the benefit of technological advances to aid them in arriving at a diagnosis. U.S. medical programs in Cuba are permitted to observe the health care delivery system of Cuba mostly from the public health and primary care aspects.

Based on initial agreement with Cuban authorities, the program will admit 20 students, from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Human Medicine, and the College of Nursing. Cuba has a wide appeal for medical students, and nursing students to observe the delivery of public health and primary care in Cuba. In the April 2016 course 16 students, 12 from COM, 3 from CHM, and one nursing doctoral student participated. Their feedback surveys on the course were all excellent and highly recommended the course to their colleagues.

Cuba provides an excellent environment to study the interaction between human and physical aspects of development. Through classroom lectures, local guest speakers and field experiences, students will explore the health care delivery system of the country in the context of general Latin American development and social change.

The duration of the course will be 1 week. For enrollment students will be required to have a minimum of one Spanish course (SPN 101 or equivalent). All classes will be in English. Guest speakers will have translators. The course will use every opportunity to engage students in the learning process. On weekends, the group will make longer field trips, to Vinales and the Matanzas/Varadero area, to learn other aspects of human development. (See Appendix, map with field trip destinations). There will be pre-departure sessions to introduce Cuba and prepare students for the trip.

Elective Description
OST 590 Section 758 is a 3 credit hour elective that provides students with an overall purpose as follows:

The primary goal of this elective one-week, 3 credit course is to introduce students to the health care delivery model in Cuba while experiencing the country’s rich culture. The students will explore the public health and community medicine model by on site observation of the delivery of community health clinics, maternal health, pediatric care, and geriatric care. The students will experience healthcare through the Cuban School of Public Health.

Learning Opportunities
• Delivery of primary care in an office setting and home visits
• Visiting and interacting with high risk prenatal centers
• Interacting with a geriatric rehabilitation center
• Observing a pediatric day care center and the delivery of preventive care
• Participating in the discussion of the value of community education for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.
• Visiting a grass roots community activity center
• Analyze the attributes of the Cuban Health System
• Delivery of Public and Community Health in Cuba
• Immersion in Cuban culture and history and developing cultural competencies
• Develop conversational and medical Spanish language

Course Goals
There will be lectures and presentations by Cuban health care officials and clinicians and opportunities for students to closely observe the care of patients while learning about Cuba’s history and culture. In meeting these objectives, the student will be challenged through lectures and observations to identify the attributes and dynamics of what has made the Cuban health system, despite scarcity of resources, a leader in the western hemisphere in maternal/infant mortality and the delivery of public health. 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.

Prerequisites
• 2nd year student in College of Osteopathic Medicine, Human Medicine, or College of Nursing at Michigan State University in good standing
• minimum of one Spanish course (SPN 101 or equivalent)

Safety, Security, and Health
MSU Study Abroad programs in Cuba started in 2002. From past experience, there is no particular health or security risks for students. Cuba is ruled by a strict regime that is trying to insure that the country is safe for foreigners. Their national income depends considerably on tourism and abuses to foreigners are rare. In addition to MSU’s HTH health insurance, Cuba offers free medical care insurance that students qualify for when they enter the country legally. In coordination with OSA we will develop a list of appropriate providers including doctors, clinics and hospitals. While we do not foresee any emergency situations in Cuba, we do plan to orient students for emergency cases following OSA’s safety procedures. The convent of Santa Brígida, as in previous MSU programs, will be used as the primary safe place in Havana. We will also coordinate with the U.S. Embassy (opened in Havana August 2015) for additional safe places if needed.

Course Coordinator
Name: William Cunningham D.O., M.H.A.
Phone: 517-353-8992
Email: william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu
Address: 909 Fee Road, Room B319, East Lansing, MI 48824
Faculty Coordinators
Name: William Cunningham D.O., M.H.A.
Phone: 517-353-8992
Email: william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu
Address: 909 Fee Road, Room B319, East Lansing, MI 48824

Name: Gary L. Willyerd, DO
Phone: 517-884-9600
Email: gary.willyerd@hc.msu.edu
Address: 4707 St. Antoine, Suite CG68, Detroit, MI 48201

Name: Rene Hinojosa, Ph. D.
Phone: 517-353-3184
Email: hinojosa@anr.msu.edu
Address: Room 201K, Human Ecology Bldg. MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824

Administrative Coordinator
Name: Rusti Sidel
Phone: 517-884-3789
Email: rusti.sidel@hc.msu.edu
Address: 909 Fee Road, Room B320, East Lansing, MI 48824

Clinical Coordinator
Name: Dr. Marcia Garcia
Email: mariana@infomed.sld.cu
Address: Havana, Cuba

Local Coordinators
Name: TBD
Email: TBD

Instructors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Cunningham, D.O., M.H.A.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu">william.cunningham@hc.msu.edu</a></td>
<td>517-353-8992</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary L. Willyerd, DO</td>
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<td>517-884-9600</td>
<td>DMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene Hinojosa, Ph. D.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hinojosa@anr.msu.edu">hinojosa@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
<td>517-353-3184</td>
<td>EL</td>
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Lines of Communication
- For administrative aspects of the Course: contact the course coordinator.
- For content questions relating to a specific lecture or topic: Rusti Sidel, 517-884-3789
- For absences/missed exams (see excused absence information below)
**Office Hours**

Questions concerning the elective may be discussed individually by making an appointment with Rusti Sidel, Institute of International Health, by phone 517-884-3789 or via e-mail, rusti.sidel@hc.msu.edu. The Elective Coordinator is generally available M-F 9-4 P.M. or by appointment.

**Pre-Departure Requirements**

- Interview with Dr. William Cunningham or Dr. Willyerd
- Vaccinations – we refer students to Olin Travel Clinic
- PowerPoint presentation by Course Directors
  - Travel issues
  - Passport and visa documentation
  - Cultural sensitivity and competency
  - Review of daily agenda
  - Conduct issues
  - Cultural activities
  - Cuba historical background
  - World Health Organization “Grand Challenges”
  - Current exchange rates

**Textbooks and Reference Materials**

- World Health Organization: Final Report, Commission on Social Determinants of health, a comparative analysis of United States, Cuba, Belize, Brazil
- World Health Organization. Readings related to Health Care Disparities. (Familiarize yourself with the WHO goals and also Cuba’s and USA public health statistics).
- Gofin, Jamie and Gofin, Rosa. Essentials of global community health. Jones and Bartlett, Sudbury, MA, 2011 (not a required text, but any articles on global health by this team will enlighten you). Specific articles from this book will be forthcoming and posted in D2L
- Reading materials about Cuban history, culture, and human development will be posted in D2L.

**Elective Schedule**

This elective is presented for 1-week period. General scheduling for the educational activities of this elective are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Times (if applicable)</th>
<th>Required Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Flight to Miami and Cuba Hotel check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AM PM</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brief meeting and cultural tour, followed by dinner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day/Date</td>
<td>Times (if applicable)</td>
<td>Required Activities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9:00 AM-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Visit to “Diego Tamayo” Teaching Policlinic. Presentation on the Cuban Health System and PHC strategy. Exchange with health managers and professionals. Two ENSAP professors will be with the group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch in Havana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Visit to a family medicine doctor and nurse team at the “Diego Tamayo” Teaching Policlinic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Working dinner with small group, (2) presentations on readings and day’s experiences, reflective time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Family and Community Care. Spending time in family medicine doctor and nurse teams offices at the “Diego Tamaya” Teaching Policlinic. Field visits. The group will be split into four sub-groups, and each of them will be accompanied by an ENSAP professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch at ENSAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Depart from ENSAP lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Visit to a family medicine doctor and nurse team at the “Diego Tamayo” Teaching Policlinic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Working dinner with small group (2) presentations on readings and day’s experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9:00 AM-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Healthcare Priority Programs: National Maternal-Child Health Program. Visit to “Leonor Perez” Maternity Home. Two ENSAP professors will be with the group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day/Date</td>
<td>Times (if applicable)</td>
<td>Required Activities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00PM-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch in Old Havana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM-7:30 PM</td>
<td>Healthcare Priority Programs: National Comprehensive Program for the Elderly. Visit to Center for Older Adults at Belen Convent. Two ENSAP professors will be with the group. Working dinner with small group (2) presentations on readings and day’s experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9:00 AM-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Family and Community Care. Spending time in family medicine doctor and nurse teams offices at the “Diego Tamya” Teaching Policlinic. Field visits. The group will be split into four sub-groups, and each of them will be accompanied by one ENSAP professor. Lunch at ENSAP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Depart from ENSAP lobby</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Mental Health in the Community. Visit to Guanabacoa Mental Health Community Center. Two ENSAP professors will be with the group. Working dinner with small group (2) presentations on readings and day’s experiences, reflection time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM-7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9:00 AM-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Health Promotion in Community Work. Visit to Health Promotion and Disease Unit. Two ENSAP professors will be with the group. Lunch in Old Havana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Visit to “Senen Casa” Community Rehabilitation Service. Two</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day/Date</td>
<td>Times (if applicable)</td>
<td>Required Activities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6:00 PM-7:30 PM</td>
<td>ENSAP professors will be with the group. Working dinner with small group, (2) presentations on readings and day’s experiences, reflection time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cultural excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>8:00 AM-7:00 PM</td>
<td>Farewell dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>AM/PM</td>
<td>Return to USA</td>
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**Required Exams/Assessments**

The activities required for successful completion of this elective are listed below:

One week upon return, the student is required to write a one-two page paper reflecting on their experience of the course and submit it to Dr. Willyerd via email (gary.willyerd@hc.msu.edu) with emphasis on the prompting questions listed below:

1. What are social determinants of disease in most Latin American countries?
2. What have you learned today about the diseases that are common in Cuba, South America and the Western Hemisphere?
3. What kinds of problems (medical or non-medical) did you face today and how did your team resolve them?
4. What did you learn today in terms of public health in Cuba and compare that with the United States?
5. What did you learn about medicine in Cuba, about their medical system, and how people view healthcare here?
6. How do you feel about your experiences today? Were there any incidents/patient encounters that stand out for you?

**Elective Grades**

- **P-Pass**—means that credit is granted and that the student achieved a level of performance judged to be satisfactory by the instructor.
- **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.
- **Remediation** - Since all of the Electives in the MSUCOM curriculum are optional, Students are not required to remediate the elective if an “N” grade is received.
- **Grade Point**- Numerical grade granted to undergraduate students only based upon performance and assessment.
Student Evaluation of the Course

We want your feedback on how to improve this course.

- **Informal Feedback**: Feel free to approach the Course Coordinator, Rusti Sidel, or any of the other course faculty with your reactions and suggestions. Or write out your comments and email them to the Course 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 Evaluation (if applicable)**: 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 [or required]. 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 method and time expectation here.
Section 2 – Policies

Academic Honesty and Professionalism

http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Policies_and_Programs/Med_Student_Rights_Responsibilities.htm


Each individual student is responsible for their behavior and is expected to maintain standards of academic honesty and professionalism. If any instance of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is discovered by an instructor, it is his or her responsibility to take appropriate action. Such action may include giving a failing grade to the student in the Elective and/or referring the student for judicial review and possible disciplinary action, which may include disciplinary suspension or dismissal from the College.

Attendance/Excused Absence

In accordance with the MSU All-University Policy on Attendance, MSUCOM does not have a regulation requiring class attendance. However, the College understands and supports the need and the right of the faculty to expect student attendance and participation in many curricular components with consequences if the student is not attending. In the spirit of professional behavior, MSUCOM students are expected to attend required class sessions (e.g., lectures, laboratories) and take all examinations during their originally scheduled times. If this is not possible, the student must obtain an excused absence. To obtain an excused absence, you need to make the following contact, as appropriate, prior to the scheduled administration of the examination(s).

Personal Emergencies:
(e.g., death in family, serious illness (acute), hospitalization, automobile difficulties).

Elective Coordinator: Rusti Sidel (517) 884-3789

Where there is advance notice of absence:
For advance notice absences, a student must submit his/her excused absence request at least one week in advance of the scheduled mandatory elective activity. Wedding, family celebrations, vacations, conferences, etc are not considered acceptable excuses. If an examination or other required experience is missed due to medical reasons, an attending physician’s written confirmation will be required in order for the absence to be excused.

Requests for Special 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 at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at www.rcpd.msu.edu. Once a student’s eligibility for accommodation has been determined he/she may be issued a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (“VISA”) form. Please present this VISA form to Cheryl Luick, luick@msu.edu, A-331 East Fee Hall at the start of the semester and/or two weeks
prior to the accommodation date (test, project, labs, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

It is the responsibility of the student with accommodations to contact the Elective Coordinator two weeks prior to the start of the term, or two weeks prior to the scheduled assessment event or other planned use of accommodations. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

It is the responsibility of the student to submit or have submitted an updated version of their accommodations to Cheryl Luick each semester that a student plans to use their accommodations.