

SYLLABUS
NASC-310 Medical Practicum
Dr. Jeff Osborne

Course Objective. To provide an opportunity for students to experience the culture of a rural developing area of the world, in Northern Nicaragua, and to learn the needs and problems in health care delivery systems in a work/study program. Offered on a P/NP basis only. Some students have made arrangements to receive credit in other areas, e.g. Spanish or Social Work. Open to any major.

Contact Information. 260-982-5075, 313 Science Center. Home phone: 260-982-9310.

Name of Site. Rio Coco communities in the department (state) of Jinotega, Nicaragua.

Work To Be Done. We will assist in staffing health outposts in both medical and dental services. Students will work with the health professionals who are part of the medical practicum team. Students will assist in the following areas: patient reception, medical, dental, and pharmacy.

Expectations of Students. Students are expected to actively and professionally participate in all clinical and cultural aspects of the three week experience and follow the policies outlined by the instructor. Here is an important rule to live by: “Never embarrass yourself as a human being, Manchester College as your home campus, or me as your professor.”

Students will:

1. Assist doctors, dentists and pharmacists, who are part of the Medical Practicum team, in providing health care.
2. Interact with patients of all ages with a great variety of health needs.
3. Become immersed in the culture of a developing country.
4. Experience being a minority, an outsider, and feel the frustration of insufficient language ability.
5. Exist for a few weeks without the luxuries often considered to be necessities.
6. Serve the host community.
7. Complete several reading assignments, a daily journal, a feedback form, a reflective essay, and give a group presentation.

Grading. 3 credits P/NP. Students are expected to keep a daily journal during the trip and a reflective essay will be required after returning from the trip. Also, students are expected to participate in a group oral presentation in Science Seminar during the Spring of 2013. Students who satisfy these requirements will earn a “P” in the course. Evaluation of individual students will be based on a positive response to each of the following questions:

1. Did the student actively and professionally participate in all aspects of the clinic?
2. Did the student actively and professionally participate in all cultural aspects of the trip?
3. Did the student follow the policies outlined by the professor?
4. Was the student a positive representative of Manchester College?
5. Did the student submit a daily journal at the end of the trip?
6. Did the student submit an evaluation and reflective essay of their experience? Did they adequately discuss how the experience impacted them and what they learned about the history, culture, healthcare, and politics of the host country?
7. Did the student actively participate in the group oral presentation following the trip?

Travel. We will use a chartered bus in the Managua area. We will go by school bus from Managua to Jinotega (3 hours) and then along rivers in boats for 14 days, boating approximately 260 miles.

Living Arrangements. We will sleep on hammocks in the health outposts. Showering facilities and latrines will be varied. Electricity will be intermittent if available at all. Meals will be prepared by community people. The diet consists of food available locally: rice, beans, tortillas, vegetables, fruit, and some meat. The local arrangements are being made through Casa San Juan in Managua and the Ministry of Health of Nicaragua.