Long Island University
College of Veterinary Medicine
COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE NUMBER:	DVM-812
COURSE TITLE:	Veterinary Preceptorship in Tropical Animal Health and Medicine
COURSE COORDINATOR:	Dr. Sukolrat Boonyayatra
COURSE INSTRUCTORS:	Dr. Sukolrat Boonyayatra
YEAR:	July 2026
OFFICE LOCATION:	Pell Hall 206
TELEPHONE NUMBER	516-299-3602
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OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment
COURSE CREDIT:	2
COURSE DURATION:	Practicum; 2 weeks full time

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This elective course provides students a clinically-based, multicultural practicum experience of veterinary practice in tropical countries. Students will shadow local veterinarians practicing clinical skills and veterinary medicine with diverse animal species, such as elephants and tigers. In addition to clinical experiences, students will be immersed in different cultures, customs, and beliefs while learning how those factors impact work with animals in the region. Students will have exposure to animal conservation in the region and management of captive species. This rotation is 2 weeks in length.

PREREQUISITE: Enrollment in the 4th year of the DVM program.

This Course Will Assist the Students in Meeting the Following Curricular Endpoints:
PCC1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the central biological principles and mechanisms that underlie animal health and disease from the molecular and cellular level to organismal and population manifestations.

PCC2. Demonstrate understanding of normal structure, function, homeostasis, pathophysiology, mechanisms of health/disease, and the natural history and manifestations of important domestic and global animal diseases in a diverse society.

CC1c. Demonstrate ability to perform comprehensive patient diagnosis and utilize problem solving skills to select, utilize, interpret and synthesize relevant physical and laboratory diagnostic procedures including diagnostic imaging and diagnostic pathology.

CC5. Demonstrate proficient ability in basic medicine skills and the evaluation of cases to provide the adequate management.

CC8a. Demonstrate effective skills in client communications and ethical conduct as it relates to how to acquire information from clients (e.g. history) and about patients (e.g. medical records), to obtain, store and retrieve such information, and to communicate effectively with a diverse population of clients and colleagues.

CC8b. Demonstrate ethical conduct and understanding of professional ethics, influences of different cultures on the delivery of veterinary medical services to the public.

CC8c. Demonstrate knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, aptitude and behaviors necessary to address responsibly the health and well-being of animals in the context of the societal responsibilities of veterinarians and ever-changing societal expectations.

CC8d. Demonstrate basic knowledge of personal and small business management and awareness of the different career options in Veterinary Medicine.

COURSE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the differences and similarities in veterinary medicine between western developed countries and eastern developing countries
2. Describe the cultural impacts on practices for animal health wellbeing
3. Perform physical examination of trained elephants and other animal species
4. Identify or diagnose common animal health problems in tropical countries
5. Combine clinical knowledge of animal disease and cultural competence of the regions to develop effective treatment plans for animals in tropical countries
6. Evaluate and explain general considerations of animal conservation techniques, including captive animal management, as demonstrated within the visited region.

COURSE TOPIC OUTLINE

Day	Topic	Activity
1	Managing Elephant's Health in an Elephant Camp Setting	Visiting an elephant camp and shadowing a veterinarian working there
2	Conservation Medicine in Elephant's Health	Visiting the Thai Elephant Conservation Center and shadowing some veterinarians working for elephant's health there
3	Important History Taking and Physical Examination of Elephant Patients	Visiting the Elephant Hospital and practicing physical examination in elephants under supervision of an expert veterinarian

4	Managing Captive Tiger's Health	Visiting the Tiger Kingdom and shadowing some veterinarians working there
5	Managing Health of Captive Animals in a Zoo	Visiting a zoo and shadowing some veterinarians working there
6-10	Diagnosis and Treatment of Selected Animal Species	Shadowing some veterinarians in a specialized clinic

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Assessments	Due Dates	Percentage of overall course grade
Assignments (Self-Reflection)	Day 10	30%
Attendance	Day 1-10	30%
Evaluation from supervisor of week 1	Day 5	20%
Evaluation from supervisor of week 2	Day 10	20%
TOTAL		100%

GRADING POLICY: Final grades and GPA are calculated as follows:

This is a Pass/Fail course. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be evaluated with a combination of self-reflection, attendance and performance evaluation from supervisors. Students must attain a minimum of 75% of the points to pass the course.

A "pass" grade indicates full percent is awarded for that section whereas a "fail" means zero percent for that section is obtained. A pass in each section will be defined by the activities of that section.

The College reserves the right to modify the assessment plan to adjust to unforeseen events. In such cases, students will be officially notified by the CVM Office of Academic Affairs.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. Pakkanut Bansiddhi, Janine L. Brown, and Chatchote Thitaram. 2020. Welfare Assessment and Activities of Captive Elephants in Thailand. Animals 10, 919.
2. Janine L. Brown, Pakkanut Bansiddhi, Jaruwan Khonmee, and Chatchote Thitaram. 2020. Commonalities in Management and Husbandry Factors Important for Health and Welfare of Captive Elephants in North America and Thailand. Animals 10, 737.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Clinical Programs Student Handbook contains complete policies, procedures, current practices, and provisions of the college and University that guide students successfully through their clinical year. Although many common situations are addressed in this Course Outline, it does not cover all possibilities. The 4th Year Clinical Student Handbook and the CVM Academic Bulletin should be consulted for further information. If a conflict exists between these documents, the College policy, procedures, and standard operating practices prevail.

Attendance and Absences

Attendance and participation in clerkship educational activities, including related discussions customary for the discipline, are required in all clerkships. Absences will be defined as any time a student is not present in the clerkship when they are scheduled to be present. Examples include, but are not limited to: illness, family emergency, injury, conferences, or personal days.

- **All absences, regardless of the reason, must have make-up learning activities that meet the guidelines described below.**
- **Absences must be reported to the Clinical Affiliate and CVM as soon as possible, including Course Directors and the Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs.** Students will be asked to provide a plan for making-up the absence as approved by the Clinical Affiliate.
- A grade of Incomplete (INC) will be assigned if the student has not completed the make-up learning activity before the end of the clerkship. The grade will be updated following completion of the learning activity.
- Absences that impact 20% or more of the scheduled clerkship days will result in removal of the student from the clerkship and require the student to repeat the clerkship in its entirety. Students with excused absences will receive a grade of INC and students with unexcused absences will receive a grade of F.

Illness and Emergencies: In case of illness or emergency, the student should notify the Course Director, Clinical Affiliate, and Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs as soon as possible. The Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs will contact the Clinical Affiliate if the student has not already done so.

Illness absences greater than two consecutive days must be accompanied by a written letter from a physician. **If any condition is likely to result in excessive absences during the fourth-year curriculum, the student should contact the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and discuss the process for seeking accommodations or a longer-term medical leave of absence.**

Illness lasting 20% of the scheduled clerkship days or longer will result in removal of the student from the clerkship and require the clerkship to be repeated at another time.

Medical Appointment: Students must make every attempt to schedule medical appointments so that they do not interfere with scheduled clerkships. Medical appointments that interfere with rotations and cannot be changed will be considered Personal Days (see below).

Personal Days: The college realizes that connection to family, friends, and life events outside of veterinary school is essential for our student's mental well-being and resiliency. Personal days include, but are not limited to weddings, graduations, family gatherings, job on internship interviews, non-Federal holidays, religious holidays, birthdays, and conferences. The college recommends that students take these special events into account when they are planning their fourth year and schedule rotations around these life events. Because it may not be possible to avoid all scheduling conflicts, the college provides students the opportunity to take personal days to participate in such events. Students are permitted a total of **five (5) personal days throughout their fourth year**.

The number of personal days that can be taken within 1 clerkship are limited so that students are absent less than 20% of the scheduled rotation days. For example: A two-week rotation with 5 scheduled clerkship days per week = 10 clerkship days. In that circumstance a student may not take more than 2 personal days in the two-week clerkship.

Students must notify the Clinical site and contact (where possible), Course Director and Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs as soon as they are aware that they will need to take a personal day. Absences will be considered unexcused if appropriate communication with the CVM and Clinical Affiliate does not occur.

Observation of Religious Holidays: Students who anticipate being absent because of a religious observance will notify the Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, and appropriate Course Director(s) **at the beginning of the semester.** The University complies with Section 224-a of New York State Education Law–Absence Due to Religious Observation.

Unexcused Absences: Students will incur an unexcused absence if they are absent from the clerkship activities without notification or approval by the college. Students will also receive an unexcused absence if they fail to complete the alternate make-up learning activity for a previously communicated absence. A single unexcused absence will result in a Fail grade for the rotation. This applies to all Core and elective clerkships within the fourth-year program. Additionally, unexcused absences will be addressed per the College and University policies on professional conduct.

Accommodations and Disability Support Services
In compliance with federal and state laws, LIU is committed to providing qualified individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in all university programs and activities, curricular and extracurricular, which are available to non-disabled individuals.

Students with disabilities who desire accommodations must submit appropriate documentation of their disability to the office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located in the Learning Center. Professional staff will review and evaluate this documentation, interview the student, and provide the student with completed accommodations forms for presentation to the teaching faculty. Campus departments will be notified, as necessary, of the need for additional accommodations noted in the student's documentation. Accommodations forms must be obtained each semester before the semester begins. All disability-related files are confidential.

Personal Safety
Students enrolled in the LIU CVM professional curriculum participate in a medical profession where the threat of exposure to and the chance for spread of infectious agents and interaction with fractious animals and potentially toxic agents are greater than in the general population.

For both personal safety and the safety of all personnel, attention must be given to cleanliness and sanitation as essential safeguards against infectious disease, including COVID-19.

- The student and their equipment must be kept in such orderliness as to reduce the chance of contracting infection and spreading infection to others.
- Students may not wear protective clothing (e.g., scrubs, lab coat, overalls, coveralls) in public places away from the LIU CVM or rotations sites (e.g., retail establishments, public gatherings, entertainment events, sports events). These clothing items are to be worn only while engaged in educational, research, and/or service activities related to veterinary medicine.
- Students must utilize their veterinary training to properly approach and restrain fractious animals to prevent both personal injury and injury to personnel or patients.

Emergency and Incident/Injury Procedures
Student injuries occurring within learning environments in NY State should not be treated under the affiliate's worker's compensation insurance coverage as students are not considered employees. The student's health insurance will be the primary coverage for such an incident or injury. If the facility where the student is hosted is not in New York, please consult the relevant state laws, codes, and regulations.

Minor Injury:

- Student responsibility:
  - o Obtain immediate first aid if needed
  - o If indicated, seek medical care at the nearest medical facility
  - o Notify the Course Director and Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs as soon as possible via phone or email, dependent on urgency
- Affiliate responsibility:
  - o Administer immediate first aid if needed
  - o Direct student to seek medical care at the nearest medical facility if indicated
  - o Complete any state, federal, or locally-required reporting (e.g. public health officials for animal bites)

Severe Injury:

- Student responsibility:
  - o Call or direct another individual to call 911
  - o Apply first aid as appropriate until medical services arrive
  - o Notify the Course Director and Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs as soon as possible, dependent on urgency
- Affiliate responsibility:
  - o Call or direct another individual to call 911
  - o Apply first aid as appropriate until medical services arrive
  - o Complete any state, federal, or locally-required reporting (e.g. public health officials for animal bites)

It is at the student's discretion as to where to seek medical care. Students must provide the treating facility with their **PRIMARY** insurance information. In New York and most states students are not considered employees; thus, rotation related injuries are **not worker's compensation injuries**. Students should advise the treating facility that they are a Long Island University CVM student.

Pledge of Honor
All students are expected to sign the following Pledge of Honor upon matriculation to LIUCVM: "As a student of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Long Island University, I will actively pursue behaviors that are consistent with professional conduct, as outlined in the college's Honor Code. I will maintain a professional relationship with faculty, colleagues, other health care providers, and patients, and will maintain academic integrity, as outlined in the Code. I fully recognize that violation of any of the standards of the Code may result in disciplinary actions, including possible dismissal from the college." Students are reminded that failure to sign this document does not relieve them from the professional and academic responsibilities set forth in the LIU-CVM Honor Code and/or other documents delineating student conduct and behavior.

Professional Dialogue
Comments relative to concerns about the adequacy of animal care, the accuracy of diagnosis, and the appropriateness of therapy are never permitted in the presence of the owner/client. These conversations should be conducted respectfully, professionally, and directly with the clinician at an appropriate time and location away from the client. Violation of this professional conduct code may result in student removal

from the Clinical Affiliate site and require completion of the clerkship at another date at the student's own expense.

Medical Record Confidentiality and Security

The medical record is the property of the individual rotation site and is strictly confidential. Contents are not to be divulged to anyone other than personnel involved in patient care or in response to course requirements. A veterinary professional is ethically bound to keep this information confidential unless the owner has granted written permission for disclosure.

Descriptive information of the client (e.g. name, address, telephone number) is the confidential property of the Clinical Affiliate and is not required for any purpose by the college for any academic reason.

If the Clinical Affiliate authorizes students to write in the medical records, the following general rules apply:

- For paper records, the records must be written in black or blue ink and must be signed or initialed by the student so that it clearly indicates the portion that was entered by the student.
- Personal comments or commentary must not be included.
- Medical records are not to be taken outside the Clinical Affiliate site.

Social Media

- Material related to any client or patient may not be shared in any public or social networking site unless permission from the Clinical Affiliate, owner, and/or Course Director has been received.
- No picture of any client or patient may be posted without the approval of the client involved and the clinic where the patient was seen.
- Posting these materials without appropriate permissions will be considered unprofessional behavior and subjected to sanctions as per University policies and procedures.
- Any post which contains information about a client, patient, Clinical Affiliate, or faculty member must include a comment indicating that permission to post was received prior to posting.

APPENDIX

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE (Week 1)

Topics to be evaluated	Levels (points for that particular topic)				
	Greatly below expectations	Below expectations	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations	N/A
1. Describe the differences and similarities in veterinary medicine between western developed countries and eastern developing countries (CC8d)	Did not participate the discussion (0)	Participate the discussion and share ideas when he/she was asked for (1)	Actively participate and share ideas during the discussion (2)	Lead or initiate the discussion (3)	
2. Describe the cultural impacts on practices for animal health wellbeing (CC8c)	Did not participate the discussion (0)	Participate the discussion and share ideas when he/she was asked for (1)	Actively participate and share ideas during the discussion (2)	Lead or initiate the discussion (3)	

3. Perform history taking and physical examination of trained elephants and other animal species (CC8a)	Unable to perform (0)	Performed with help (1)	Performed with guidance (2)	Performed independently (3)	
4. Identify or diagnose common animal health problems in tropical countries (CC1c)	Unable to diagnose (0)	Diagnose with help (1)	Diagnose with guidance (2)	Diagnose independently (3)	
5. Combine clinical knowledge of animal disease and cultural competence of the regions to develop effective treatment plans for animals in tropical countries (PCC1, PCC2, CC5)	Unable to create a treatment plan (1)	Create a treatment plan but not effective and/or reasonable for the management condition (3)	Create an effective and reasonable treatment plan under guidance (4)	Independently create an effective and reasonable treatment plan (5)	
6. Evaluate and explain general considerations of animal conservation techniques, including captive animal management, as demonstrated within the visited region (CC8b)	Did not participate the discussion (0)	Participate the discussion and share ideas when he/she was asked for (1)	Actively participate and share ideas during the discussion (2)	Lead or initiate the discussion (3)	

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE (Week 2)

Topics to be evaluated	Levels (points for that particular topic)				
	Greatly below expectations	Below expectations	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations	N/A
1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of pathogenesis underlying patient's health and disease (PCC1)	Did not participate the discussion (0)	Asking questions but lack of ability to answer any questions related to the pathogenesis of patient's condition (1)	Asking and answering questions related to the pathogenesis of patient's condition (2)	Independently explain the pathogenesis of patient's condition (3)	
2. Demonstrate understanding of normal body structures and functions of observed animal species (PCC2)	Did not participate the discussion (0)	Asking questions but lack of ability to answer any questions related to normal body structures and functions of observed animal species (1)	Asking and answering questions related to normal body structures and functions of observed animal species (2)	Independently explain normal body structures and functions of observed animal species (3)	
3. Perform patient diagnosis and/or interpret results from performed diagnostic	Unable to perform (0)	Performed with help (1)	Performed with guidance (2)	Performed independently (3)	

techniques (CC1c)					
4. Create reasonable treatment plans and/or perform basic treatment on patients (CC5)	Unable to perform (0)	Performed with help (1)	Performed with guidance (2)	Performed independently (3)	
5. Effectively communicate with clients/doctors/other DVM students in order to retrieve information of observed patients (CC8a)	Did not communicate with anybody for patient's information (0)	Asking questions to retrieve patient's information with guidance or encouragement but still did not have enough information for diagnosis and treatment (1)	Asking questions to retrieve patient's information with guidance or encouragement (2)	Asking questions to retrieve patient's information without any guidance or encouragement (3)	
6. Demonstrate understanding of profesional ethics and respectfulness to work cultures in the observed department (CC8b, CC8c, CC8d)	Fail to comply to rules set for working at the attending department (1)	Comply to all rules with low confidence and express some negative attitudes during the observation (3)	Comply to all rules and work with confidence and positive attitudes (4)	Comply to all rules and work with confidence and positive attitudes with recognition from other team members in the department (5)	