I. Rotation Description
Students will learn to elicit a complete and history, perform a complete musculoskeletal examination, evaluate and determine medical treatment of rheumatic problems and apply laboratory information and testing.

II. Rotation Objectives
a. Describe the diagnosis and treatment for the following:
   1. Rheumatic joint disorders
   2. Joint and Bone Infections
   3. Osteoarthritis and Degenerative Joint Disease
   4. Osteoporosis
   5. Spondyloarthropathies
   6. Back Pain
   7. Bone Tumors
   8. Osteonecrosis
   9. Seronegative spinal disorders:
      i. Ankylosing spondylitis
      ii. Reiter's Syndrome
      iii. Psoriatic arthritis
   10. Toxic Suppurative Arthritis
   11. Gout
   12. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
   13. Fibromyalgia
   14. Polymyositis
   15. Inflammatory Myopathies
   16. Systemic lupus erythematosus
   17. Aseptic necrosis of the hip
18. Septic arthritis
19. Sarcoidosis
20. Somatic Dysfunction related to:
   i. Chronic pain conditions
   ii. Continued physical stressors
   iii. Abnormal posture
   iv. Scoliosis
   v. Structural imbalance of the spinal system

b. Identify the appropriate use of and interpretation of joint fluid analysis, sed rate, CRP, Rheumatology profile, x-ray, bone scan and MRI

III. Rotation Design
The rheumatology rotation occurs primarily in the ambulatory clinic, rehabilitation center or long-term care facility.

IV. Credits
4 week course = 4 credit hours
2 week course = 2 credit hours

V. Suggested Textbook and References

VI. Course Grading/Requirements for Successful Completion of the Rheumatology Rotation
a. Attendance according to VCOM and preceptor requirements
b. Preceptor Evaluation at end-of-rotation

Grading policies, academic progress, and graduation requirements may be found in the College Catalog and Student Handbook at: http://www.vcom.vt.edu/catalog/.

VII. Clinical Performance Objectives
The end-of-rotation evaluation for this rotation will be completed by your preceptor and is based on clinical core competencies. These core competencies reflect student performance in 6 key areas: communication, problem solving, clinical skills, medical knowledge, osteopathic medicine and professional and ethical considerations. Your end-of-rotation evaluation from your preceptor will be based directly on your performance in these 6 core competencies as described below.

a. Communication - the student should demonstrate the following clinical communication skills:
   1. Effective listening to patient, family, peers, and healthcare team
   2. Demonstrates compassion and respect in patient communications
   3. Effective investigation of chief complaint, medical and psychosocial history specific to the rotation
   4. Considers whole patient: social, spiritual & cultural concerns
   5. Efficiently prioritizes essential from non-essential information
   6. Assures patient understands instructions, consents & medications
   7. Presents cases in an accurate, concise, well organized manner
b. Problem Solving – the student should demonstrate the following problem solving skills:
   1. Identify important questions and separate data in organized fashion organizing positives & negatives
   2. Discern major from minor patient problems
   3. Formulate a differential while identifying the most common diagnoses
   4. Identify indications for & apply findings from the most common radiographic and diagnostic tests
   5. Identify correct management plan considering contraindications & interactions

c. Clinical Skills - the student should demonstrate the following problem solving skills:
   1. Assesses vital signs & triage patient according to degree of illness
   2. Perform good auscultory, palpatory & visual skills
   3. Perform a thorough physical exam pertinent to the rotation

d. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine - the student should demonstrate the following skills in regards to osteopathic manipulative medicine:
   1. Apply osteopathic manipulative medicine successfully when appropriate
   2. Perform and document a thorough musculoskeletal exam
   3. Utilize palpatory skills to accurately discern physical changes that occur with various clinical disorders
   4. Apply osteopathic manipulative treatments successfully

e. Medical Knowledge – the student should demonstrate the following in regards to medical knowledge:
   1. Identify & correlate anatomy, pathology and pathophysiology related to most disease processes
   2. Demonstrate characteristics of a self-motivated learner including demonstrating interest and enthusiasm about patient cases and research of the literature
   3. Are thorough & knowledgeable in researching evidence based literature
   4. Actively seek feedback from preceptor on areas for improvement
   5. Correlate symptoms & signs with most common diseases

f. Professional and Ethical Behaviors - the student should demonstrate the following professional and ethical behaviors and skills:
   1. Is dutiful, arrives on time & stays until all tasks are complete
   2. Consistently follows through on patient care responsibilities
   3. Accepts & readily responds to feedback, is not resistant to advice
   4. Assures professionalism in relationships with patients, staff, & peers
   5. Displays integrity & honesty in medical ability and documentation
   6. Acknowledges errors, seeks to correct errors appropriately
   7. Is well prepared for and seeks to provide high quality patient care
   8. Identifies the importance to care for underserved populations in a non-judgmental & altruistic manner
g. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Components
   Students must be familiar with the OMM didactic and workshop requirements for their OMS-4 year as described in the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine website.