

## VMF 982 Poultry Health Management I Course Syllabus

**Coordinators:**

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**Credits:** 2

**Prerequisites:** Completion of years 1-3 in the veterinary curriculum and an interest in the production of poultry, poultry medicine, and/or population medicine.

**Enrollment:** Minimum - 3; Maximum – 6.

**Course Description:** Poultry Health Management I is an elective food animal clinical rotation for 4<sup>th</sup> year veterinary students with an interest in poultry health management. Emphasis is on diseases of chickens and turkeys and how the health of hundreds of millions of animals is maintained through the principles of population medicine and biosecurity. Some work on other avian species may be done, but this should not be considered in taking this block. Basic concepts of poultry disease prevention, treatment, and diagnostics will be emphasized. Most of the course experiences will be off campus.

**Course Objectives:** Objectives of this course are: 1) become familiar with various facets of poultry production including chickens and turkeys, hatchery operations, and processing; 2) learn about poultry medicine as a specialty within the veterinary profession

**References:** *Diseases of Poultry*, 11th edition, YM Saif, HJ Barnes, JR Glisson, AM Fadley, LR McDougald, and DE Swayne. Iowa State Press, 2003.  
*Avian Disease Manual*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, American Association of Avian Pathologist, 2000  
*Isolation and Identification of Avian Pathogens*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, American Association of Avian Pathologists, 1998.  
VMF 964, Diseases of Poultry/Swine class notes  
Class handouts

**Grading:** The course is graded pass/fail. Evaluation is based on attitude (demonstrates positive attitude during block), conduct (professional), participation (active), preparation (necessary materials and background information), and clinical expertise (application of basic knowledge to problem solving and obtaining a diagnosis).

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Missed activities must be made up. Illness is excused if supported by appropriate documentation.

**Schedule:** A schedule of activities will be provided at the beginning of the rotation. It is tentative and subject to change. If changes are necessary, they will be announced as soon as they are known. Because of distances to be traveled during field trips and nature of the activities, it will likely be necessary to leave early and perhaps even arrive back at the CVM late. Make appropriate arrangements ahead of time for early departures and late returns. Be sure to check times each day as the schedule varies and **ARRIVE ON TIME**. Field trips will leave within 10 minutes of scheduled departure. Being late for field trips will be considered an unexcused absence.

**Emergency Duty:** No emergency duty will be assigned on this block.

**Name tag:** Please wear your name tag to help us and our clients to get to know you.

**What to bring for necropsy at CVM:** Coveralls are required. Instruments, protective gear, and other needed items will be provided.

**What to bring/wear on field trips:** Typically 4-6 out-of-town and 2-4 local field trips are taken. Each student should bring the number of clean coveralls indicated in the schedule (usually 1 or 2 but could be as many as 4 pair, recommended to obtain extras from classmates not needing them during the block or from central supply at the VTH). Dress professionally as we may be meeting poultry industry professionals. No T-shirts, shorts, or sandals. On days that we are visiting processing plants, you should wear/bring warm clothes, because many areas of the plant are kept very cold. Identification may be required, especially at processing plants. You can bring your lunch but we will break for lunch during field trips. Occasionally our client may treat us to lunch but we should not expect it. Be sure to bring any other essential items (medications, fluids, sun block, hat, etc.) that you may need.

**Safety:** Handle needles and sharp objects carefully to avoid injury. Wear protective clothing, including gloves, when handling any biological materials. Particle masks may be helpful in dusty environments. Use good personal hygiene and wash hands frequently. Do not eat or drink in areas potentially contaminated with hazardous chemical or biological agents. Some zoonotic agents occur in poultry. A few, such as *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* are common, but cause no clinical signs in colonized birds. Our understanding of the zoonotic potential for other infectious agents in birds is far from complete. Wear non-slip shoes in areas where the floor may be wet and slippery. When working outdoors or in poultry houses during hot weather wear sunscreen, take frequent breaks, and drink sufficient fluids to prevent dehydration.

**Instructor/Course Evaluations:** Evaluations will be done on the last day of class. Suggestions for improving future offerings of the rotation are always appreciated.

**Professional Behavior:** It is recognized that you may be taking this rotation to fulfill your requirements for graduation and not because of an interest in a career in poultry medicine. However, you should have at least some interest in learning about poultry and acceptance of current industry practices including hatching, processing, and euthanasia. If you feel this would be offensive and not acceptable to you personally, you should consider other options for meeting your requirements for graduation. We are guests of our clients and need to behave as such. Photography is not permitted. If you would like to discuss experiences that you have questions about within our group, this is not only permissible, but desirable. It is not a perfect world.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Students must follow the NCSU Code of Student conduct, which can be found at: <http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/ncsulegal/41.03-codeof.htm>

**Statement for students with disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653.

**Final comments:** We would prefer to be considered more as guides rather than teachers. Our goal is for you to personally discover as much as you can during the short time we will have together. We will do whatever we can to achieve that goal. We believe that together we can have a great learning experience that is also enjoyable and results in a sense of personal accomplishment.