

# **Syllabus and Course Description**

## **Course Information**

### **AVS 196 Introduction to Equine Cooperative**

Introductory field experience in the handling and care of the University of Maine equine herd.

Credits: 1

## **Faculty Information**

Instructor: Robert Causey

Office: Witter Center, but best to go to my webpage at  
<https://robertcausey.github.io>

Here is a link on how to set up an appointment with me using google calendar.  
[https://video.maine.edu/media/How+to+invite+Dr.+Causey+to+an+advising+meeting./1\\_u70s4uxn](https://video.maine.edu/media/How+to+invite+Dr.+Causey+to+an+advising+meeting./1_u70s4uxn)

Email: [rcausey@maine.edu](mailto:rcausey@maine.edu)

Cell phone: 207-922-7475

Office hours: By appointment

## **Instructional Materials and Methods**

Students will have access to all course materials on the AVS 303 Brightspace portal. At the time of writing this class (AVS 196) will not have its own Brightspace portal. Course materials and assignments specific to AVS 196 will be distributed through email.

Student will require clothes suitable for working outdoors, including foot wear with some degree of toe protection, such as leather shoes or boots. Sandals, sneakers or open toed shoes are not appropriate. Students are encouraged, but not required, to purchase a riding helmet.

## **Course Schedule**

Lecture Mondays 6.00 PM – 8.00 PM  
Barn duties: 1 chore and 1 stall per week

## **Learning Outcomes**

*Learning outcome # 1:* The student will improve skills applicable to any work place, including increased responsibility, timeliness, professionalism, concern for animal welfare, interpersonal skills, and attention to detail.

*Learning outcome #2:* The student will be able to satisfactorily complete routine horse care duties.

*Learning outcome #3:* The student will be able to demonstrate competence in safe horse handling, knowledge of feeds, knowledge of tack, physical examination of the horse, and basic horse terminology.

## **Grading and Course Expectations**

Students will be graded as follows:

Completion of assigned tasks: 80 % (See rubric below)

Quizzes: 20 %

A = 90-100 %, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F < 60%

## **Lecture topics:**

Students will have guest access to all the Course Material at

<https://robertcausey.github.io>

Scroll down to the link for AVS 196

Topics will include:

- Coat Color and Identification
- Physical Exam and Body Condition
- Nutrition and Colic
- Points of the Horse
- Musculoskeletal Anatomy
- Gaits and Longeing

Tendon injury, lameness and lameness evaluation  
Therapy for lameness  
Cardiovascular system  
Compost and Poisonous Plants  
Infectious diseases  
Vaccination

**Rubric for grading completion of assigned tasks:**

	-----Score-----				
Task	1	2	3	4	5
Stall cleaning					
Horse Handling					
Feeding					
Grooming					
Physical examination					
Horse terminology					
Attendance*					

**1 = Unacceptable - Unable to complete task supervised**

**2 = Needs improvement - Unable to complete task unsupervised**

**3 = Acceptable - Can complete task unsupervised**

**4 = Good - More than acceptable, but not qualified to instruct**

**5 = Excellent - Qualified to instruct**

**\*Student score reduced by 1 for each unscheduled absence.**

**The total score from the rubric will be multiplied by 2, for a maximum possible of score of 40 X 2 = 80 % of class grade.**

## **Class Policies**

Students will be required to attend weekly equine barn meetings, to participate in weekly chore rotations, and to attend a weekly lecture. Class attendance is required. Failure to attend a scheduled meeting or perform assigned duty, without prior approval of the instructor, will be penalized according to a three strikes policy, resulting in failing the class upon the third strike.

### ***Academic honesty***

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314: <https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/>

### ***Students Accessibility Services Statement***

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (Robert Causey) privately as soon as possible.

### ***Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause)***

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that

event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

### ***Observance of Religious Holidays/Events:***

The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

### ***Sexual Discrimination Reporting***

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to Title IX Student Services or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800- 871-7741 or Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: Title IX Student Services: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <https://umaine.edu/titleix/>

## University of Maine COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The virus is transmitted person-to-person through respiratory droplets that are expelled when breathing, talking, eating, coughing, or sneezing. Additionally, the virus is stable on surfaces and can be transmitted when someone touches a contaminated surface and transfers the virus to their nose or mouth. When someone becomes infected with COVID-19 they may either have no symptoms or symptoms that range from mild to severe and can even be fatal. During this global pandemic, it is imperative that all students, faculty, and staff abide by the safety protocols and guidelines set forth by the University to ensure the safety of our campus. All students are encouraged to make the Black Bear Cares Pact to protect the health of themselves, the health of others, and the College of Our Hearts Always.

**Black Bears Care Pact:** <https://umaine.edu/return/black-bears-care/>

**Symptom checking:** The symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe, and even people with mild symptoms may transmit the virus to others. Students are encouraged to use the symptom checking app each day before attending class or moving about campus and follow the recommendation prompted within the app. Students should monitor for the following symptoms daily: fever (temperature >100.4F/38.0C) or chills, new cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath/difficult breathing, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting, or the onset of new, otherwise unexplained symptoms such as headache, muscle or body aches, fatigue, or congestion/runny nose.

**Physical distancing:** Students need to make every effort to maintain physical distancing (6 feet or more) indoors and outdoors including within classrooms. The University classrooms and physical spaces have been arranged to maximize physical distancing. Follow the traffic patterns outlined in each building and outdoor space to avoid crowding. If students are in an academic setting (i.e. clinical or lab class) that requires them to reduce physical distancing, they should follow the instructor's guidelines.

**Face coverings:** Students must wear appropriate face coverings in the classroom. Face coverings must be worn in indoor and outdoor spaces on campus unless people are alone in a room with a door closed or when they are properly physically distanced and do not expect someone to approach them. When face coverings are removed people are placing themselves and those surrounding them at increased risk for COVID-19.

**Eating and drinking in classrooms:** Students may not eat or drink in the classrooms and are encouraged to take their food or drink into areas designated for these purposes where they can maintain 6 feet physical distance from others.

**Hand hygiene:** Proper hand hygiene is an effective measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students should wash their hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially after using the bathroom, before eating or drinking, and before and after going to class or university spaces such as the recreation center, library, or dining halls.

**Contingency plans:** Classes will be held in various formats to offer flexibility, compassion, and empathy during these unprecedented times. Under certain circumstances, students or instructors may need to miss classes or in-person classes may be disrupted. Students are expected to notify

their instructor if they are unable to attend an in-person or online class but will not be penalized for missing class due to illness or the need to care for a family member affected by COVID-19. If a disruption occurs, your instructor will provide communication and contingency plans.

**What to do if you have or suspect you have COVID-19:** If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been possibly exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should stay home, not interact with others, and contact your health care provider immediately to be tested for COVID-19. You may not attend in-person classes and should suspend interactions with others until you are tested. Prior to receiving test results you should quarantine in your living area according to the Maine CDC guidelines below. Please follow the guidance of your health care professional regarding testing, quarantine, and isolation during the testing process and potential illness period.

**What to do if someone you know has or may have COVID-19:** If someone you know or that you have had close contact with (defined by the ME CDC as 15 mins or more within 6 feet or less) has tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and quarantine according to the guidance of the ME CDC, contact your health care provider, and continue to monitor for symptoms. You may be required to quarantine and/or be tested for COVID-19 under these circumstances. You may also have been exposed to COVID-19 by someone you do not know, and it is possible that you could be contacted through contact tracing to determine if you were exposed. Everyone should respond to these confidential questions to ensure the safety of themselves and those around them.

**Maine CDC guidelines:** <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/general-information.shtml>

**If you have questions or would like additional information related to the University of Maine COVID-19-specific policies or procedures please use the following sources:**

University Webpages: [umaine.edu/return](https://umaine.edu/return) and [together.maine.edu](https://umaine.edu/together)

COVID-19 Information line: 207.581.2681

Emergency Operations Center Email Contact: [umaine.alerts@maine.edu](mailto:umaine.alerts@maine.edu)