

# Syllabus and Course Description

## Course Information

AVS 303 Equine Management Cooperative

Work Experience at the J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center. Students work in teams to manage the University equine herd, including feeding, nutrition, health management, retraining of donated horses.

2 Credits

### **Faculty Information:**

**Name:** Robert Causey

**Phone:** (207) 922-7475 (cell)

**E-Mail:** rcausey@maine.edu

**Meetings:** By appointment

### **Equine Trainer:**

**Name:** Haley Loving

**Phone:** (cell)

**E-Mail:** Haleyloving1995@gmail.com

**Meetings:** By appointment

## **Instructional Materials and Methods:**

No textbook is required. Class notes will be provided by instructor. Main emphasis is on hands-on training at the farm. All class materials may be accessed at

<https://robertcausey.github.io>

## **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to integrate knowledge of nutrition, preventative medicine, physiology, anatomy and pathobiology into practical decision making on a horse farm.
2. Students will acquire the ability to perform all duties associated with caring for horses, including feeding, watering, grooming, stall cleaning and chores.
3. Students will be able to handle horses safely, using appropriate methods of restraint, from the ground.

## **Course Goals:**

Students should develop the understanding of the basic science and practical skills necessary to safely and efficiently manage a small herd of horses. This should provide them with sufficient knowledge and skills to find employment in the equine industry, apply to veterinary college, or apply for graduate education in the equine field.

## **Instructional Objectives:**

1. In lecture periods with Dr Causey, students will apply their knowledge of nutrition, preventative medicine, physiology, anatomy and pathobiology into practical management of the UMaine horse herd. This includes decisions related to horse health, medical management, performance, behavior, and suitability of UMaine horses as a pleasure animals.

2. Students will perform all duties associated with caring for horses, including feeding, watering, grooming, stall cleaning and chores, under Dr Causey's supervision. Students will be members of the UMaine cooperative barn. As such, their primary concerns will be animal welfare and human safety.
3. Under supervision of Haley Loving, students will be trained to handle horses safely, and apply appropriate methods of restraint from the ground

### **Lab sections:**

Horses are large animals and can be dangerous. The goal of training is to make a horse safe to work around. Although other horse facilities may have different ways to address this concern, for consistency it is necessary that all our students be trained to handle our horses in a specific way. Consequently, in this class you may be instructed in a method of handling which differs from what you have experienced previously. Ours is not the only way to train horses, but as a student in this class, please recognize that you will be learning our method. Some times it may be necessary for our trainer to take control of a horse that is misbehaving in order to correct it. If you have any questions about the rationale behind the training methods please ask Loving. Questions about training methods are encouraged, and will not adversely affect your grade. However, animals must always be handled in the way Loving instructs.

### **Assessment, Grading and Course Expectations:**

Attendance and chore requirement -50 %. Attendance at barn meetings and completion of the horse chore requirement is essential for a passing grade. Students sign up for chores at barn meetings (biweekly at 7 PM). Chores consist of morning chore (7 AM turn out), evening chore (bring in – varies from 4 – 7 PM depending on daylight), noon check and 7 PM feeding during winter months). You must remember to sign in for chores or else you may not receive credit. To demonstrate adequate horse handling ability students need to complete over the semester the following minimum requirements:

Bring in: 10 per semester  
Turn out: 10 per semester  
Minimum chore number: A total of 2 chores a week

### ***Tallying chores***

Chores for which you sign up will be tallied as follows:

Completed on time: 1 point  
Complete or covered for someone else: 1 point  
Not completed, but covered by another student and excused: 0 points  
Not completed, and no arrangement made for coverage and no excuse – 1 point  
These added together = Total Chore Tally

Chore tally calculation of Total Equine Dependability Index (TEDI) = Total Chore Tally/Total Signed Up  
e.g.. You sign up for 30 chores, complete 25, miss 1 excused, miss 4 unexcused

$$\text{TEDI} = (25 + 0 - 4)/30 = 21/30 = 0.7$$

Missed chores: You are essential members of the farm, and attendance at chores for which you have signed up is necessary for safety of your fellow students and welfare of the horses. *Missing a chore is grounds for reducing your letter grade.* Only serious conditions out of your control can be a basis for excusing a missed chore. These include a medical emergency, flu, fire at home, family emergency, weddings, funerals, cancelled airline flights, car accident, dangerous driving conditions and severe weather. Situations within your control should not be considered excusable. These include conflicting work schedules, car trouble unrelated to weather, social events, studying for an exam, forgetfulness or trouble with your alarm clock. Students who miss chores repeatedly may be withdrawn from the class.

***Tallying Stalls:*** A similar index for Stalls (STEDI) is computed in the same way. Your TEDI (and STEDI) give a picture of your dependability which is very important in this type of work setting.

Enrollment in the class implies agreement by the student to meet these requirements. If students are not able to do so they should reschedule the class for a semester when they can. Students may use vacations (e.g. spring break) to make up shortages in chore requirements.

*Take home exercises* - 25 %. Completion of assigned exercises.

*Training sessions* - 25 %. Attendance and willingness to complete tasks covered.

*Problems:* If you are having any problems with the class please contact either Dr Causey or Haley Loving. Your concerns will be kept confidential and expressing them will not adversely affect your grade.

### **Policy statements required for every syllabus at the University of Maine:**

*Academic honesty (plagiarism, etc):* Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism and all forms of misrepresentation in academic work, and is unacceptable at The University of Maine. As stated in the University of Maine's online undergraduate "Student Handbook," plagiarism (the submission of another's work without appropriate attribution) and cheating are violations of The University of Maine Student Conduct Code. An instructor who has probable cause or reason to believe a student has cheated may act upon such evidence, and should report the case to the supervising faculty member or the Department Chair for appropriate action.

*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, the instructor of the course) 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 the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention 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: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 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: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>

## 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>  
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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)