

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: Robert Causey on First Class

Meetings: By appointment

Equine Trainer:

Name: Cassie Astle

Phone: (207) 942-9658 (office), (207) 610-9483 (cell)

E-Mail: wildivyfarm@gmail.com

Meetings: By appointment

Graduate Assistants:

Name: Alexandria Poulin

Phone: (508) 728-8988 (cell)

E-Mail: Alexandria.Garcia@maine.edu

Meetings: By appointment

Name: Melissa Hawkes

Phone: (603) 953-3120 (cell)

E-Mail: Melissa.Hawkes@maine.edu

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. An online barn manual may be accessed at

http://robertcausey.github.io/Barn_Manual/barnmanual.htm

or under barn manual link at 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 Cassie Astle, 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 Cassie. Questions about training methods are encouraged, and will not adversely affect your grade. However, animals must always be handled in the way Cassie 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 Cassie Astle. 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 with disabilities statement: If you have a disability for which you may be requesting accommodation, please contact Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

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 OSVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>