



EQSC 321 01W

EQUINE GENETICS AND MATING SELECTION

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Nathan Wells, Instructor

Office Location: AGIT 233 F

Office Hours: By appointment only throughout the summer either on campus or at the Equine Center

Office Phone: 903-886-5355

Office Fax: 903-886-5990

University Email Address: Nathan.Wells@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: within 48 hours M-F – **I WILL NOT REPLY TO YOUR EMAIL ON THE WEEKEND.**

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings

-There are no required textbooks for this course. I will be providing one module for you to complete each week. There may be additional videos or online material that is required for you to watch or read. If it is mentioned in the assignment, it is required for your completion to earn full credit.

-For those who would like to purchase helpful readings for themselves, I would suggest:

Horses- A Guide to Selection, Care, and Enjoyment; 2nd edition by J. Warren Evans

Course Description

Principles of genetics, and application of breeding selection with emphasis on the horse. Study of genetic disorders, inheritance, and genetic improvement of horses.

Prerequisites: ANS 118 or [EQSC 240](#).

Goals / Rationale of the course:

-This course begins by discussing equine genetics in a broad sense.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- The discussions will be based around the dominant genetic characteristics in various bloodlines.
- The student will become familiar with distinct bloodlines within various breeds of horses.
- Discussions of what qualities are suitable for various disciplines and why these qualities are selected for.
- The physical conformation that plays a role in athletic performance will be discussed heavily.
- The student will understand various genetic diseases and what their effects are.
- The student will be knowledgeable enough to select what qualities are most important to their preferred discipline and make educated mating choices.

Course Outcomes/Objectives

- This course shall teach the basics of equine genetics and mating selection. The students shall be able to demonstrate learned knowledge of these skills through online discussions and quizzes as well as assignments, and through the final exam.
- The student will demonstrate what they have learned by taking quizzes and completing discussions online as well as with the final exam. The student will also have assignments that will demonstrate what they have learned about genetic characteristics, distinct bloodlines, heritable traits, and genetic diseases.
- The student will also be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the lectures, and webliography.
- The student will demonstrate what they have learned through lecture by incorporating this information into their assignments and being active, engaged participants in online discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology in your online courses. The following technology is recommended to be successful in this online course.

Internet connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)

Word Processor

Power Point

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use myleonline:

Chrome and Firefox are the recommended browsers

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Instructional Methods

Activities / Assessments

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course and module learning objectives/outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of discussions, readings, quizzes, assignments, exams, etc. which will be made available to you by each Monday and close on the following Sunday.

Week 1: July 8 - 14

Week 2: July 15 - 21

Week 3: July 22 - 28

Week 4: July 29 – August 4

Week 5: August 5 – 8

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

All work for each week will open on the first date stated above which is a Monday and will all be due by midnight of the end date stated above which is on a Sunday except for week 5 which is a short week and ends on Thursday. Each module is to be completed each week. There are **five** modules total. Each module will contain a **lecture, discussion, and quiz** which should all be completed online **by the end of the week**. Modules **2** and **4** will have an assignment that will also be due by the end of the week. **Module 5** will have a final exam that will be due by **August 8 at 11:59 PM**.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Discussions: 100 points - Five discussions worth 20 points each

Course Objective/Learning Outcome #1: The student will be an active and engaged participant in the discussion topic for the module using critical thinking and knowledge that has been gained through the assigned lectures and readings. The discussions should demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking and seek out an answer that may not be concrete. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality not quantity, timeliness of your contributions, and a detailed analysis of linking together theory (readings) to application (activities).

Assessment Method: The discussions will be graded by the instructor and should answer the question and show effort, deep thought, and opinion depending on the discussion topic. They will be graded using the discussion forum rubric.

https://teach.uiowa.edu/sites/teach.uiowa.edu/files/wysiwyg_uploads/sample_online_discussions_rubric.pdf

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Quizzes: 100 points – Five quizzes worth 20 points each

Course Objective/Learning Outcome #2: Module quizzes will be given online relating to the material in the lectures. Complete the quizzes online by accessing the D@L quiz tool. The quizzes will be due by the end of the week. Grades will be made available to students the week following submission of the quiz. If you lose Internet connectivity during the quiz, log back in immediately and continue on with the quiz. Save your answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If you experience any issues while taking the quiz, you must contact the myLeoOnline Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding quiz issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

Assessment Method: Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill in the Blank, Matching, and Essay Quiz

Assignments: 200 points – Two assignments worth 100 point each

Course Objective/Learning Outcome #2: Two assignments will be given throughout this course. These assignments will be due in module 2 and module 4. These assignments will be based upon the information learned in the lectures. The assignments should demonstrate critical thinking, logic, and a thorough understanding of the lecture material and online readings.

Assessment Method: Instructor will grade each assignment according to the knowledge that should have been gained in the course. Application of learned material should be evident in assignment.

Final Exam: 100 points – 50 questions worth 2 points each

Course Objective/Learning Outcome #2: Final exam will be given online relating to the material in all of the lectures. Complete the exam online by accessing the D2L quiz tool. The exam will be timed and grade made available to students following submission of the exam. If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, log back in immediately and continue on with the exam. Save your answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If you experience any issues while taking the exam, you must contact the myLeoOnline Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

Assessment Method: Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill in the Blank, Matching, and Essay Exam

Grading

Every item is worth a particular amount of points. Check the online grade book to see how many points each individual discussion, quiz, assignment, final exam, and lab participation grade is worth. This is a point grading system, and the table below shows the points needed to receive the different letter grades.

Each individual discussion is worth 20 points. Each quiz is worth 20 points. Each assignment is worth 100 points, and the final exam is worth 100 points.

Letter grades by points:

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Total Points Possible for Semester = 500
500 - 450 = A
449 - 400 = B
399 - 350 = C
349 - 300 = D
299 - below = F

Assessments

How is the Course Organized?

The course is organized by modules which directly coincide with the weeks in the semester. The dates each module will open and close were stated above. Two modules will be covered per week in the summer semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information

This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing myLeoOnline/D2L Brightspace , the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

What Should Students Do First?

Students should browse through the home page, syllabus, webliography, student lounge, and virtual office to get an idea of each of these. Then, the students should begin on module 1. Any questions should be emailed to the instructor or posted in the virtual office.

How Should Students Proceed Each Week for Class Activities?

1. The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the module/unit content area of the myLeoOnline course. The module/unit content area of our course is found on the navigation bar.
2. Each module will contain a lecture for the students to read.
3. After the student is familiar with the lecture, they should click on the quiz tab to take the online quiz.
4. The student should also participate in the discussion forum for the module by clicking on the discussion tab.
5. Lab attendance/participation will be done during lab time.
6. Assignments should be completed by uploading them to the dropbox after reading the information in the assignment tab on the appropriate weeks.
7. The final exam will be in module 10 and should be completed after all information from the semester has been reviewed.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The following are the tools the instructor will be using for communication throughout the semester:

- Email will be checked daily during the week and will be sent out as reminders
- Virtual Classroom will be checked daily M-F during the week
- Announcements will be made when necessary and students should view

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-Students can email the instructor or ask questions through the communication tools in myLeoOnline

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The primary tool used for communication will be email and announcements. Students should send personal concerns or questions to email.

Students should expect a response to emails within 48 hours during the week. Questions sent over the weekend should not expect a response until Monday. The instructor will email students at their myLeo email address. Proper netiquette should be used for this course. This means that comments put in discussion forums, office, and lounge should all be of a nature that will not be offensive to others.

Student Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of myLeoOnline. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@tamuc.edu to initiate a support request with Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the '*Help*' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with myLeoOnline (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Course Policies

Academic Honesty Policy

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *current 'Code of Student Conduct' from online Student Guide Handbook*)

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

Examination& Quiz Policy

Quizzes are open book. This means that you may print out the lectures to use during the quizzes. Although, the student should be familiar with the information because there will not be enough time allotted to look up every answer. The student shall also be familiar with the information because not all questions will have a direct answer. They will require critical thinking and understanding of the

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material in the lecture. The final exam shall not be open book and will cover all material from the semester. If a student loses internet connection during a quiz, the instructor will look at the technical report and decide whether the quiz may be retaken.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted up to one week late with a 25% deduction.

Drop a Course

“A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.”

Instructor Policies

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus, points allotted, or other information as needed throughout the semester.

University Policies

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Disability Resources & Services

COURSE OUTLINE

The calendar above shows all the weekly dates for the course. All assignments should be submitted by the last date of the week for that particular module. Each module will have a discussion and quiz, and some modules will have assignments. Module 10 will have a final exam. There will also be two lab grades.

Week 1 - Overview of animal genetics and specifics related to equines.

Week 2 - Bloodlines of genetic importance to specific equine breeds.

Week 3 – Equine conformation and color genetics.

Week 4 – Genetic diseases and disorders.

Week 5 – Mating selection for optimizing genetic potential.

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