



**Horse Evaluation EQSC 2321 and Horse Evaluation
Lab EQSC 2321 L**

Spring 2025

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Location: Equine Lab

Lab: R 3:00 – 4:50 pm

Lab Location: Equine Lab

Instructor: Nathan Wells

Office Location: AGIT 233 F

Office Hours: TR 8:00 – 9:00 am or by appointment

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: 1-2 days or within 48 hours M-F – I WILL NOT
REPLY TO YOUR EMAIL ON THE WEEKEND.**

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Introduction to horse judging and conformation/performance evaluation. Establishes the critical and analytical thinking skills, judgement, and written and oral communication skills in preparation for horse judging in a competitive collegiate setting.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Pre-requisites: EQSC 240 or consent of the instructor

Co-requisites: EQSC 2321 L

Materials needed-

You will need to purchase a notebook/notepad to use when taking notes and preparing oral reasons. This could be a composition notebook or something similar. You will also need a clipboard and pens/pencils to write with.

***Textbook:* I will provide you with various judging manuals, rulebooks, and materials in an electronic format. You may wish to print these off and/or otherwise acquire a print version for your use to study and prepare for actual judging use.**

***Optional Texts and/or Materials:* Various video resources that will be provided throughout the semester.**

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will reinforce their knowledge of the principles of equine evaluation and selection and apply those skills to selection of horses for a purpose.
- Students will understand the standard criteria used to evaluate horses, emphasizing balance, structural correctness of conformation, breed and sex characteristics and overall muscling.
- Students will recognize conformational faults and relate them to potential performance and/or soundness issues.
- Students will gain useful experience in analytical and critical thinking, judgment, written and oral communication.
- Students will judge individual and groups of horses by developing an organized method of evaluation.
- Students will learn how to prepare and deliver a set of oral reasons to defend their evaluation of horse in halter and performance classes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Basic Skills Needed

The student in this course should have the ability to attend class and take notes. We will spend a great deal of time in the early semester learning terminology and rules for evaluation. The student should also be prepared to dress according to professional,

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business casual dress that exhibits a standard of professionalism seen in the equine industry is required. We will discuss and show examples of proper attire the first week. We will hold lab at times in an outdoor environment, so students should dress according to the weather each scheduled lab session.

Instructional Methods

We will spend our time in lecture and lab discussing horse evaluation and place horses in many classes and disciplines while learning the oral communication skills necessary to defend placings in the formal presentation of a set of reasons.

Course material and instructional methods will include, but may not be limited to; lecture presentation, Powerpoint, video, and live evaluation. Labs will be held on campus at the Equine Center and are supplemented by practice at shows and horse farms in the North Texas and Southern Oklahoma horse country.

The students will have the chance to judge at least two, **maybe more** actual horse judging contests in the course of the semester. These contests may be completed in live or virtual format.

Appropriate Clothing:

- 1. For lab sessions on campus and at horse farms/shows you will be expected to wear professional, business casual dress that is appropriate for the equine industry. You will be expected to wear boots that are western, but professional looking and clean. Shirts and pants will need to be pressed/starched and clean. No ball caps will be allowed, but you may wish to wear a properly shaped and clean western hat.**
- 2. For lab sessions you will be expected to dress as follows:**
 - a. Females will wear jeans/slacks that are starched and pressed with blazers that fit your body type. Boots as described above will be required as well. Ladies should wear their hair in a neat manner as if attending a nice dinner. Earrings and jewelry should be appropriate, not excessive.**
 - b. Males will wear slacks that are starched and pressed with blazers that fit your body type. Boots as described above will be required as well. Men should wear their hair in a neat manner as if attending a nice dinner. Facial hair should be trimmed neatly and kept to a minimum.**
 - c. No ball caps will be allowed.**
 - d. You may wish to wear a felt hat (January-March) and a straw hat (April-May) to class. We will show examples in class of appropriate type and shape. Hats are not typically worn in actual judging contests when contestants from multiple schools are judging together. This is done to**

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- prevent blocking others from viewing the class if judging in close proximity to one another.
- e. We will discuss this further in class and examples of professional attire will be given.

Thank you for signing up and let's have fun!

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students will receive points each day for attendance and participation. Students will receive a 0 for absences. For an absence to be considered for being excused, the student must contact the instructor **before class**. Permission to make-up work, practices, etc. for excused absences will only be granted in advance. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of absences and arrange to make-up work. Three unexcused absences will result in a letter grade drop and five unexcused absences will result in an F in the class. It is the student's responsibility to drop the class. **There will be no make-up work offered for unexcused absences.**

In the event of an illness or emergency, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible and provide a letter of illness upon return to courses. Should a student fail to reach out to the instructor during the course of an extended illness, there will not be an excused absence given.

Tuesdays and Thursdays we will meet for lecture and Thursdays are lab days, so lab and lecture will count as two separate class periods with two separate set of attendance points to be earned. We will meet at the Equine Center and have labs there or leave to look at horses offsite.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology in this course. East Texas A&M University uses the D2L Online Learning Management System for online course access. **Although this course is a face-to-face course, we will use an online gradebook that can be accessed in D2L and you will need to complete weekly discussions in D2L.**

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 myleoonline:

Chrome and Firefox are the recommended browsers

GRADING POLICY

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Grades will be determined by the following:

Attendance and Participation in lecture= ~ **300 points**

Weekly quizzes over material = ~ **300 points**

Weekly lab participation/assignments = ~ **320 points**

Judging attire = ~ **140 points**

Final judging evaluation and sets of reasons = ~ **1000 points**

TOTAL POINTS = ~ 2,060 points

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*) East Texas A&M University 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 given weekly over course material covered in lecture. 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 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. The final judging evaluation will include halter and performance classes, as well as, oral reasons for the majority of the classes. Students must attend and participate in this final judging evaluation in order to pass the course!

Late Work

Late work with an excused absence 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."

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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
East Texas A&M University-Commerce
Waters Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148**

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu [Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 – Introductions to the Course and Expectations
Week 1 – Introduction to Terminology, Breeds and Colors - First lab
Week 2 – Face and Leg Markings
Week 2 – Conformation – Form to Function - Second lab
Week 3 – Halter Horse Evaluation
Week 3 – Reasons for Halter Horses – Third lab
Week 4 – Western Pleasure
Week 4 – Reasons for Western Pleasure - Fourth lab
Week 5 – Western Riding
Week 5 – Western Riding Reasons - Fifth lab
Week 6 – Western Horsemanship
Week 6 – Western Horsemanship Reasons – Sixth lab
Week 7 – Ranch Riding
Week 7 – Ranch Riding Reasons – Seventh lab
Week 8 – Reining
Week 8 – Reining Reasons – Eighth Lab
Week 9 – SPRING BREAK
Week 9 – SPRING BREAK
Week 10 – Trail
Week 10 – Trail Reasons - Ninth lab
Week 11 – Team Roping – Heading
Week 11 – Team Roping – Heeling/Team Roping Reasons – Tenth lab
Week 12 – Tie-Down Roping
Week 12 – Tie-Down Roping Reasons – Eleventh lab
Week 13 – Working Cow Horse
Week 13 – Cutting – Twelfth lab
Week 14 – Hunter Under Saddle
Week 14 – Hunt Seat Equitation – Thirteenth lab
Week 15 – Hunter Hack
Week 15 – Showmanship – Fourteenth lab
Week 16 – Wrap up and Review
Week 16 – Wrap up and Review – Final lab

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