



VETT 460 LAB ANIMAL AND EXOTIC DISEASE AND MANAGEMENT

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

Online Lecture: Asynchronous

Lab: Fast Track TBA

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda Laffoon M.Ed. BAS, LVT, LAT
Office: Virtual
Office hours: By appointment
E mail: Amanda.Laffoon@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s)

- **Required:**
 - Laboratory Animal and Exotic Pet Medicine, 3rd Edition
 - By: Margi Sirois, EdD, MS, RVT, CVT, LAT, VTES
 - ISBN: 9780323778169

Software Required: Any Internet vehicle including Google Chrome, Firefox, etc. that follows that below supported browsers. Also, lecture materials, supplemental worksheets, videos, and slides will be available on D2L which will need to be opened using Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Power Point.

Optional Texts and/or Materials: There will be links to images, videos, and other supplemental materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the husbandry, handling, restraint, care and use of exotics and laboratory animals. Includes discussion uncommon diseases, biosecurity, and public health. The care and use of laboratory animals will be covered in depth.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be able to safely and effectively handle common laboratory animals used in animal research.
2. The student will be able to understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Examples include: Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This section describes how the learning process will be conducted (delivery modalities, course structure, Getting Started and types of learning activities and assessments).

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Examples include: Regularly logging into the course website, approximately 6 hours of weekly study and 3 hours of participation time expected. These anticipated times are an estimation and may require more or less.

GRADING

1. Quizzes

- There will be weekly quizzes based on the module/chapter(s) covered in the textbook.
- Many questions will come from the study guide, so ensure you complete the study guide and ask any questions you have before taking your online quiz.

2. Discussion board:

- Each week, there will be a topic relating to your chapter.
 - i. Summarize the topic in 4-5 well-written, complete sentences.
 - ii. You may use the book, but add **YOUR** educated opinion to the discussion. Do not copy and paste. I don't want to read the same thing from each student.
 - iii. Provide the link to any credible websites or articles used (usually, these are .gov or .edu). Ensure the person who has written the article is a DVM, Credentialed Technician, or someone with a doctorate.
 - iv. Choose one of your fellow students' posts to comment on.
 - v. If a post already has two comments, please try to comment on one that hasn't been commented on yet.
 - vi. If someone asks a question in their comment on YOUR post, ensure that you respond.
- Discussions will not be granted any late submissions.

3. Exams

- There will be three exams given throughout the semester.

4. AVMA Task List

- The task list is a pass/fail for the class.

Late Work Policy

- No late work is accepted: Students have a week to complete all assignments, quizzes, and exams.

The final grade in the course will be based on your accumulated total points during the semester according to the following distribution:

Quizzes	140points
Journal Club and Rounds (12 x 15 pts)	180 points
Exams (3 x 100 points)	300 points

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Quizzes	140points
AVMA Task List	Pass/Fail
Total	620 points

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=univer_salmenu

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.

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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

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<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 A&M-Commerce 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>

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

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Course Schedule

	Dates	Modules	Topics	Chapter	JC and Rounds 12 x 15pts= 180	Assessment
1.	Jan 13-20	Module 1	Intro Lab Animal Med	1	Discuss factors that may predispose an animal to disease.	Quiz 10pts
2.	Jan 20-27		Exotic Animal Facilities	2	Discuss the importance of staff education when the clinic sees exotic companion animals.	Quiz 10pts
3.	Jan 27-Feb 3		Research Animal Facilities	3	Discuss environmental concerns in laboratory animal facilities.	Quiz 10pts
4.	Feb 3-10	Module 2	Birds	4	Discuss the basics of client education, husbandry, and nutrition for avian species.	Quiz 10pts
5.	Feb 10-17		Reptiles	5	Discuss the basics of client education, husbandry, and nutrition for reptiles.	Quiz 10pts

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6.	Feb 17-24		Amphibians	6	Discuss nursing care and supportive therapy techniques for an amphibian patient.	Quiz 10pts Ex 1: 100pts Ch.1-5
7.	Feb 24-Mar 3		Rats & Mice	8	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of rats and mice.	Quiz 10pts
8.	Mar 3-17 (extended due to SB)		Rabbits	9	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of rabbits.	Quiz 10pts
9	Mar 10-14	Spring Break				
10.	Mar 17-24	Module 2	Guinea Pigs	10	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of guinea pigs.	Quiz 10pts
11.	Mar 24-31		Ferrets	11	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of ferrets.	Quiz 10pts
12.	Mar 31-Apr 7		Gerbils & Hamsters	12	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of gerbils and hamsters.	Quiz 10pts Exam 2: 100pts Ch. 1-6, 8-11
13.	Apr 7-14		NHP	14	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of NHPs.	Quiz 10pts
14.	Apr 14-21		Other Species/Fish	13/7	None	Quiz 10pts
15.	Apr 21-28		Wildlife	15	None	Quiz 10pts
16.	Apr 28-May 5		Final Exam		None	Exam 3: 100 pts Ch. 1-15 (Cumulative)

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