



**Basic Equitation  
EQSC 140.001  
Fall 2025  
MWF 8:00-8:50 am  
Location: ETAMU Equine Lab  
Lab: MWF 9:00-9:50 am  
Lab Location: ETAMU Equine Lab**

**Instructor: Nathan Wells**

**Office Location: AGIT 233 F**

**Office Hours: TR 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm and by appointment**

**Office Phone: 903-886-5355**

**University Email Address: Nathan.wells@etamu.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***

This course is an introduction to horse handling and equitation including grooming, saddling, bridling, horse care and basic Western riding techniques. Emphasis will be put on practical work and confidence building for students with little or no horse experience.

***Materials needed-*** Good fitting pair of riding boots and comfortable pair of jeans/pants to ride in. I also recommend that you bring water to class in case of hot weather.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**Textbook:** None required

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

**Corequisites:** EQSC 140L

**Prerequisites:**

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

Upon successful completion of this course students should have an understanding of these concepts;

- a. methods of catching and restraint of horses
- b. proper care of stall and cleaning techniques
- c. basic and advanced grooming techniques
- d. proper use and care of western tack
- e. proper equitation – including but not limited to the use of hands, seat, legs and voice as aids
- f. introduction of gaits; (walk, trot, and lope) and transitions
- g. changes of direction while in motion
- h. stopping and backing up

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***No Previous Equine Skills Needed***

The student in this course should have a desire to learn the basics of horsemanship and proper equitation. **SAFETY is the #1 priority for labs! You will be expected to follow directions to maintain a safe environment for your, your horse and your classmates!**

### **Appropriate Clothing:**

1. Riding boots with a riding heel. **Absolutely no “tenny lamas”, spike heels, or sandals.**
2. Loose fitting jeans or long pants. No shorts or skirts.
3. An appropriate shirt. No tank-tops.
4. Jackets or coats in cooler weather. I will not provide you with a coat if you show up without one and get cold.
5. You will be required to wear a safety helmet when riding. (ETAMU will provide a helmet to all students, but you may use your own approved riding helmet if you wish.) We will discuss proper equipment and fit of saddles in the first two weeks.
6. You may wish to bring a water source with you to class.
7. **DO NOT** carry your cell phone on your person when we are riding. Also please remove earrings and jewelry that may be lost when riding.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Instructional Methods

We will spend our time in lecture discussing proper horsemanship theory and techniques. We may watch videos and discuss tack and equipment in the lecture portion as well. We will spend our lab time applying the principles discussed in the lecture. The labs will cover groundwork and work from the saddle.

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

The student should understand that attendance is mandatory for a passing grade. The student will be expected to attend and participate in all lecture and labs. The student will be expected to ask questions in discussion. The student will be expected to keep a riding journal in D2L (online Learning Management System) that is updated with each lab session. Above all other requirements the student is expected to come to class with an open mind and willingness to learn. Safety is of the utmost importance and a disregard for the safety of themselves and other students will not be tolerated.

The first few days will be spent teaching students how to catch, halter, and lead and groom the horses used in the course. The class will use horses owned by ETAMU. The lab class will meet at the ETAMU Equine Center Arena. The instructor will take roll each and every class period at the beginning of class. Students who show up after roll has been taken will receive an unexcused absence for that class period. It is the **student's responsibility** to contact the instructor **prior to** an absence if at all possible. In the case of a medical emergency or illness you should provide a doctor's note to receive an excused absence.

## 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 have weekly assignments 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

### Grading Policy

Daily activities will consist of study and group discussion of specific skills, techniques and/or maneuvers. Each student will ride and practice maneuvers in order to advance both the student's and animal's levels of proficiency, comfort, and confidence. The skills will be presented in progressive sequence so that mastery of each skill is necessary for it will be incorporated into future maneuvers. **Therefore attendance is imperative.**

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I will maintain a gradebook in the D2L LMS version of the course. You should be able to access this at any time, throughout the semester. If you should have questions about your grade, check the D2L Gradebook first, then contact the instructor. I will post discussion topics each week in D2L over the exercises and material covered in class and you will be responsible for responding to all discussions.

Grades will be determined by the following:

Attendance = 400 points  
Weekly Assignments ~ 300 points  
~ 700 points total

### Grading Scale

700 - 599 points = A  
598 - 499 points = B  
498 - 399 points = C  
398 - 299 points = D  
298 points or less = F

## 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 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 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,

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*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**

**East Texas A&M University**

**Gee Library 132**

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

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**[StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu)**

**Student Disability Resources & Services**

### ***Nondiscrimination Notice***

All students of 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)

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46.035 and East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M University 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 facility
- Introduction to the horses and catching, leading, restraint
- Basic Grooming, saddling, and bridling

### Week 2

- Establishing mental and physical discipline in your horse
- Advanced Grooming, saddling and bridling
- Tools of horsemanship and the use of aids

### Week 3

- Basic Concepts of horsemanship and equitation
- First few rides on lunge line and under saddle
- Continuing with first few rides and feeling the feet

### Week 4

- Continuing with rides on the lunge line
- Introducing gaits and transitions – The Walk – Feeling Footfall
- Walking and changing directions – Turns and Stopping

### Week 5

- Using your voice to cue the horse
- Using your core and seat to cue the horse
- Using your hands to cue the horse

### Week 6

- Using your legs to cue the horse
- Riding the horse with your whole body
- Introducing the trot and transitions from trot to walk

### Week 7

- Diagonals and posting, sitting the trot
- Backing and using the legs to back up
- Beginning to transition from the trot to the lope

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- Week 8
  - Trot to lope transitions continued
  - Loping and leads
  - Loping from a trot and getting the correct lead
- Week 9
  - Developing your seat at the lope
  - Transitioning from a lope to a trot
  - Transitioning from a lope to a walk
- Week 10
  - Simple lead changes
  - More Simple lead changes
- Week 11
  - Introduction to body control
  - Introduction to the hindquarter and shoulder control
- Week 12
  - Introduction to flexion exercises
  - Introduction to the side pass
- Week 13
  - Thanksgiving Week – No class
- Week 14
  - Introducing patterns – walk/trot
  - Walk/trot horsemanship patterns
- Week 15
  - Walk/trot/lope patterns
  - Introducing obstacles
- Week 16
  - Finals Week

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