



**Advanced Horsemanship  
EQSC 241.001  
Advanced Horsemanship Lab  
EQSC 241.01L**

**Fall 2025  
TR 8:00-8:50 am  
Location: ETAMU Equine Lab  
Lab: TR 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  
Office Phone: 903-886-5355  
Office Fax: 903-886-5990  
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 focuses on the refinement of advanced horse handling and Western riding techniques. Emphasis will be put on principles of how horses are trained for various disciplines and developing advanced maneuvers.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**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.

**Textbook:** *If I Were to Train a Horse* by Jack Brainard is a great resource, but is not required.

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

**Corequisites:** EQSC 241L

**Prerequisites:** EQSC 140 min grade of C or above, EQSC 220 min grade of C or above, or instructor approval.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- a. The essential elements of body control that all performance horses must possess.
- b. The gymnastic exercises necessary to advance a green horse to more advanced levels of training.
- c. The development of a training program to achieve performance goals for individual horses.
- d. The development of a conditioning program to maintain a performance horse at a competitive level.
- e. The conditioning programs necessary to modify equine behaviors that are counterproductive to increasing performance levels.
- f. The necessary exercises to teach lead changes and other advanced maneuvers.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Basic Riding Skills Needed**

The student in this course should have a basic understanding of proper equitation. They should be comfortable riding in a western saddle at a walk, trot, and lope. They should be able to distinguish which lead the horse is on at all times. They should have the beginnings of an independent seat and understand the use of their hands and legs in proper equitation.

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## Instructional Methods

We will spend our time in lecture discussing horse training theory and techniques. We will 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.

**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. (TAMUC 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.

## 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

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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**

### **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.**

**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 and Participation in Discussions = **300 points**

Weekly assessments of progress with horse = **150 points**

Quizzes on material covered in lecture/lab = **300 points**

Final assessment of skills = **100 points**

**850 points total**

### **Grading Scale**

**850 points – 765 points = A**

**764 points – 680 points = B**

**679 points – 595 points = C**

**594 points – 510 points = D**

**509 points or less = F**

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## **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, 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:

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**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***

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>

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
- Advanced Grooming, saddling and bridling

### **Week 2**

- Tools of horsemanship and the use of aids
- Advanced groundwork that builds into under-saddle success

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- Week 3  
Understanding the rider's role in developing the horse  
Review of rider's hand and leg position for maximum effectiveness
- Week 4  
Review of basic body control exercises  
Reinforcement of mental and physical discipline techniques
- Week 5  
Refinement of the basic body control exercises  
Introduction of the gymnastic exercises needed to achieve enhanced performance for any discipline
- Week 6  
The process of turning gymnastic exercises into more advanced maneuvers  
The leg yield and two track at a trot
- Week 7  
How to achieve a higher level of performance in a progressive timeline.  
The leg yield and two track at a lope
- Week 8  
Loping serpentines  
Loping the pinwheel
- Week 9  
Lope circles and achieving shape to the inside/outside  
Counter-canter serpentines
- Week 10  
Counter-canter circles and achieving shape to the inside/outside  
Counter-canter circles and attempt first lead changes
- Week 11  
Leg yielding in the lope  
Using the "Pulley" exercise
- Week 12  
Trot exercise to simulate the lead change  
Lope exercise for the straight line lead changes
- Week 13  
Thanksgiving Week – No class
- Week 14  
Advanced lead change exercises  
How "going through the lead change" equals an advanced horse
- Week 15  
Finals Week

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