



VETT 400 Veterinary Surgical Nursing

CRN 81169

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mrs. Catrina A. Soto MS., BAS., LVT

Office Location: VBMT

Office Hours: by appointment only

Office Phone: 903-886-5203

Office Fax: none

University Email Address: catrina.soto@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: 24 hours M-F, 48 hours Sat-Mon

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

- *Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians*, 10th edition, Joanna M. Bassert & Dennis M. McCurnin;
 - ISBN 9780323394611; **or earlier edition**
- *Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians and Nurses* 10th ed. **WORKBOOK** Joanna M. Bassert, Angela D. Beal & Oreta M. Samples;
 - ISBN 978-0-323765107
- *Small Animal Surgical Nursing: Skills and Concepts* 3rd edition (**or earlier**) Marianne Tear
 - ISBN 978-0-323-75913-7

Optional Texts and/or Materials

- *Essential Clinical Procedures for Veterinary Technicians*. Kristin Loy
ISBN 1681357488
- *Veterinary Instruments & Equipment, A Pocket Guide*, 4th or 5th edition, **or newer**, Teresa F. Sonsthagen, ISBN 9780323511322

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This class is designed to be an In-depth application of surgical, obstetrical, and anesthesia techniques including identification and use of instruments and equipment.

Students will learn how to properly use aseptic techniques, surgical preparation, pre and post-operative care, along with reviewing past curriculum but not limited to: proper restraint of cats and dogs, administer parenteral and intravenous injections, take a patient history, complete medical records, conduct a physical examination, and perform clinical procedures related to primary patient care. Prerequisites: Current enrollment in the second year of the professional Veterinary Biomedical Technology program.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and integrate all aspects of patient management for common surgical procedures in common animal species
2. Demonstrate proficiency in identifying standard soft tissue and orthopedic surgical instruments and knowledge of the following procedures (OHE, C-Section, Orchiectomy, Laparotomy, etc.)
3. Identify and provide appropriate instruments, supplies and environment to maintain asepsis during surgical procedures.
4. Understand and utilize appropriate aseptic techniques to assist operative personnel in order to provide maximum safety and benefit to the patient.
5. Properly select, wrap and sterilize appropriate instruments and supplies and prepare and maintain the surgical environment to ensure maximum safety and benefit to the patient.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

Instructional Methods

This class is designed such that you may learn at a faster pace should you choose to work ahead in class. Each week consists of reading assigned from the textbook, review exercises, reading and responding to a case study, and a quiz to evaluate your comprehension of the material

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Examples include: Regularly logging into the course website, approximately 2 hours of weekly study and 2 hours of participation time expected. These anticipated times are an estimation and may require more or less.

- The student will be held responsible for being familiar with all material presented in lectures, readings, and classmates' presentations.
- The student is expected to participate in all course activities and complete all examinations and course assignments **on time**.
- Any changes in the course schedule, such as examination dates, deadlines, etc., will be announced ahead of time via email and on the d2L website.
- It is the student's responsibility to be informed of these changes. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about deadlines concerning registration (e.g., last day for withdrawal).

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- Communication: The instructor will communicate with students through email and D2L.

3 Steps for Success

- You can expect me to come to class on time and to have a positive attitude toward our work, and I expect the same from you.
- We have a lot of material to cover each week so we all need to be prepared for class and focus on the work during class. I'll be prepared for lectures, and I ask you to keep up with assignments and be prepared to participate in class.
- Your time is valuable, so I plan assignments carefully. The assignments are intended to help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to provide excellent patient care. They may be challenging, but they're not impossible, so I expect you to complete them and to be prepared for quizzes and exams

GRADING

Attendance

- Students are expected to be present for all class meetings of any course for which they are enrolled.
- Role will be taken daily via unannounced quizzes, sign in sheet, etc.
- Students are expected to attend **ALL labs**. Patient care is a priority and your absence makes it more difficult for your lab team to provide appropriate care. Also, it is not possible to schedule another surgery to enable a student to complete required tasks performed during lab. When we are performing anesthetic and surgery procedures on live animals you may need to arrive up to an hour before the start of lab to prepare, or to remain after lab to monitor recovering patients or complete clean up procedures. An absence from lab or 2 incidents of arriving late/leaving early or not participating in lab will be a 25% deduction from your lab attendance grade. **A student who misses 2 or more labs will not earn a passing grade for the course-** when an absence is unavoidable the student must contact the instructor within 24 hours to make arrangements to attend a make-up lab.
- Students are responsible for requesting makeup work when they are absent. They will be permitted to make up work for absences which are considered by the faculty member to be excusable. The method of making up this work shall be determined by the faculty member.
- The student is responsible for providing the faculty member with reason(s) for his/her absence. The faculty member then determines the validity of the reason(s) for the absence and whether the student is to be excused for the absence.
- Attendance in lectures is required. Lecture videos are available on D2L and should be viewed before class. Attendance grade for lectures includes quizzes in lecture videos and participation in lecture meetings.

Assignments/ Worksheets

- **Late homework:** Homework will be due at a specific date and time. Any time after the due date, the homework is considered late and will receive an automatic 30% reduction in the final score and a 10% reduction each day beyond the due date.
- Students are expected to complete online quizzes and assignments during the scheduled availability. If a student is unable to take an exam in class at the regularly scheduled time due to illness or emergency, the student must contact the instructor by email within 24 hours to make arrangements to make up the missed exam. The make-up exam may not be the same exam administered to other students

Professionalism

- Students will be evaluated in two categories for professionalism: Punctuality and Attendance, and Attitude and Ethics.

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- Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally in all classes and labs, and anytime they are working with animals at TAMUC
- Working with animals in lab provides an excellent learning experience for the student and the welfare of the animals is paramount. Abuse or negligent treatment of the animals will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the class with a failing grade.
- Integrity is part of professional conduct and students are expected to strictly adhere to the instructor's policies on academic honesty about working on assignments with other students or sharing information about exams with other students. Academic dishonesty on any assignment or exam will result in failure of the assignment and is grounds for failure of the course, at the discretion of the instructor.
- Students who abuse or mishandle laboratory equipment or are disrupting class may be asked to leave class for the day, and may not have the opportunity to make up work missed as a result.
- Attitude and Ethics:
 - If you are caught cheating on anything, this will automatically cut this category in half (and you will receive a zero for that assignment/quiz/exam).
 - Attitude is evaluated each time you communicate with course instructors.
 - Are you sending professional emails?
 - Are you disagreeing in a respectful way?
 - It is ok to say disagree with something, but there is a right and wrong way
 - Are you looking for resources or answers first before asking for help?

Safety

- There are inherent dangers involved in working with animal. Please be aware of any extenuating circumstances and be prepared for them. Any animal bites, scratches, or other injuries should be reported to an instructor or staff member, even if the injury is very minor. You will need to follow instruction given by staff members and be prepared both psychologically and physically for any situation that may arise. Anyone not prepared will be asked to leave. Any student that is, or thinks she might be pregnant must inform the instructor immediately so that appropriate safety precautions can be taken.

Final Exam:

- The final exam will be comprehensive/cumulative and will be given in class on:
 - VBTL Classroom
- The final Lab Practical Exam will be comprehensive/cumulative and will be given in class on:
 - VBTL Treatment/Lab
- The final exam format may include T/F, matching, multiple choice, and short answer. No smart phones/cell phones/tablets will allowed to use on the exam.

Attendance and Professionalism	100
CE assignments	75
Pre-Lab Quizzes x10	200
AVMA-CVTEA Task/Lab (pass/fail)	200
Mid Term Project	150
Assignments x7	250
Final Written Exam	150
Final Lab Practical	150
Total	1275

<p>A = 90%-100%</p> <p>B = 80%-89%</p> <p>C = 70%-79%</p> <p>D = 60%-69%</p> <p>F = 59% or Below</p>
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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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Assessments

All essential skills will be tracked through Trajecsys.

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=universitymenu

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:

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

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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>

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:

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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 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.

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<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 OUTLINE

****Outline subject to change based on live animal availability****

- I. Syllabus review and class expectations
 - a. Discuss class expectations
 - b. Attire
 - c. Text books and materials
 - d. Start reviewing medical terminology
 - e. Understanding the roles of surgical nursing
 - i. Lab-Class activity
- II. Review Patient Assessments
 - a. Review how to examine a patient
 - i. Lab-examine facility patients and practice charting
- III. Pathogens and Disinfectants
 - a. ID non-mobile surgical equipment
 - b. Surgical suite layout
 - c. Pathogens/disinfectants
 - d. Discuss aseptic techniques
 - e. Scrub room attire and how to prepare

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- i. Lab-sterilization identification and tour the surgical suite
 - ii. Technician scrubbing techniques
 - iii. Open/closed glove
- IV. Aseptic techniques for techs
 - a. Patient prep
 - b. Patient drape
 - c. Specific surgical drape techniques and prep
 - d. Instruments-holders, forceps, retractors, suction, etc
 - i. Lab-identify items and create flash cards
 - ii. Practice draping techniques
- V. Instruments-special
 - a. Surgical packs
 - b. Preparing surgical table and unwrapping packs, gowning
 - c. Care an equipment inspection
 - d. Post care of instruments
 - i. Lab-VSST scrubbing techniques, gowning, gloving, patient pre on models
 - ii. autoclave
- VI. Patient work-up
 - a. Chart interpretation and recording
 - b. Patient Prep
 - c. ASA status and ax forms
 - d. AX machine and monitors
 - i. Lab-ID instruments, organize packs, wrapping, flash cards
 - ii. Review examinations, chart, leak testing, etc.
- VII. Proper care and cleaning of instruments
 - a. Autoclave
 - b. Cold sterilization
 - c. Variety of packing used for sterilization
 - d. Wrapping gowns
 - i. Lab-practice preparing for sterilization / wrapping
- VIII. Surgical Sterile Techniques
 - a. Various procedures techniques
- IX. Patient charting
 - a. Understanding the importance of proper charting, reviewing pre surgical
 - b. Continuing to document pre surgical examinations
- X. Patient Preparation in the triage area to surgical suite
 - a. Sterile and aseptic techniques
 - b. Transfer from triage to suite
- XI. Anesthesia machines
 - a. Familiar with the functions and parts
 - b. Properly selecting circuits based on patient
 - c. Understanding the difference in circuits
- XII. Anesthetic monitoring and recovery
 - a. Understanding monitoring different systems
 - b. The importance of recovery process and dangers
- XIII. MIDTERM

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- a. Student presentations
- XIV. Discharging and Client education
- XV. Large animal Anesthesia
 - a. Surgical preparation and their aseptic techniques
 - b. Specific instruments and recovery process
- XVI. Special surgical procedures
 - a. Overview of emergency procedures
 - b. Other special therapeutic treatments and their approaches

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