



**Intermediate Horsemanship and Equitation  
EQSC 220.001  
Spring 2026  
MWF 8:00-8:50 am  
Location: Equine Lab  
Lab: MWF 9:00-9:50 am  
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@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 the basic horseback riding skills and is for riders with some previous experience. Students will learn to ride with position and balance. Teaching emphasis is on intermediate principles of riding such as hand position, seat position, leg position and use of the natural and artificial aids. Students will execute exercises that develop total body control of the horse, such as side passes, hip movement, shoulder movement, and transitions will be refined. Lecture topics will focus on horse behavior as it relates to riding and theoretical foundations of training and riding horses.

*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:** This class does not require a textbook, however, you will be expected to complete weekly discussions in D2L along with various quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will be based upon material covered in lecture and lab.

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

**Corequisites:** EQSC 220L

**Prerequisites:** EQSC 140 and 140L or instructor approval

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

This course will introduce students to various maneuvers used in horsemanship patterns and other events in the western riding disciplines. Particular topics will include:

- a. Equine behavior and psychology
- b. Tools of horsemanship and use of spurs
- c. Proper equitation and use of the natural aids
- d. Perfecting gait transitions up and down
- e. Riding straight lines, squares, and circles
- f. Understanding the lateral maneuvers of leg yield, sidepass, and two tracking
- g. Turns on the forehand and haunches
- h. Execution of a horsemanship pattern from practice to mastery
- i. Lead changes
- j. Horsemanship patterns
- k. Ranch riding patterns
- l. Trail patterns

## **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. On Skill Assessment Days you will be required to wear riding attire that is reflective of what you might wear when showing a horse. We will cover this in lecture prior to the first Skill Assessment.

**SAFETY is the #1 priority for labs, if I tell you to do something for your safety or the safety of others, do it and do not question me! I will let you know when it is safe to challenge your skill level.**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Appropriate Clothing:

1. Riding boots with a riding heel. Examples will be given the first day of class
2. Loose fitting jeans or long pants. No shorts or skirts.
3. An appropriate shirt. No tank-tops. No oversized hoodies will be allowed.
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 helmets in the first two weeks. On the days of Skill Assessments you will be allowed to wear a well fitted and shaped western hat. We will discuss this prior to the first Skill Assessment.
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.

## Instructional Methods

We will spend our time in lecture discussing proper horsemanship theory and techniques. You will have a weekly discussion assignment that is required for you to complete outside of the regular class time. We will spend our lab time applying the principles discussed in the lecture and discussion assignments. The labs will cover extensive work from the ground and 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 up with the assignments and discussions posted 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 reviewing basic horse safety and horsemanship principles. 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**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**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. A student's participation in discussion is expected and will figure into your grade. 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** in that mastery of each skill is necessary for it to be incorporated into future maneuvers. **Therefore attendance is imperative.** Students can expect to ride at least two – three different horses throughout the semester.

**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. You are expected to keep up with the discussions and assignments in D2L LMS and will be held accountable for not doing so. I will post discussion topics and an assignment each week in D2L and you will be responsible for completion of all material as it is posted.**

Grades will be determined by the following:

Attendance = **~420 points**

Weekly Discussion entries = **~ 300 points**

Quizzes = **~300 points**

Skill Assessments = **~ 300 points**

Final assessment of skills = **~ 100 points**

**1,420 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*)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**East Texas A&M University**

**Waters 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**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

### ***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 ETAMU 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## COURSE TOPICS

Introductions to the course and expectations  
Review of using the lariat rope to achieve effective ground work  
Effective use of your hands  
Riding with your legs and your whole body  
Using spurs safely and effectively  
Using your seat and core for subtle communication  
Proper warm-up techniques for successful riding  
Advancing your warm-up  
Getting lateral flexion, to achieve softness in the head and neck  
Transitions for achieving collection  
Using the circle/box exercise  
Riding straight lines at a walk, trot, and lope  
Riding straight lines and staying in the correct lane  
Using the flower-power exercise  
Wagon-wheel exercise  
Loping straight lines and square corners  
Circles and perfecting size and speed  
Counter cantering squares and circles  
Backing to build strength and suppleness  
Side-passing to build suppleness and control  
Leg yielding and Two-tracking  
Turns on the haunches – arc and counter arc  
Turns on the forehand – arc and counter arc  
Square turns and precision in the turns  
Stopping square and smoothly  
Circle, Stop, Sweep exercise  
Advancing the lateral flexion of the head and neck with the Hinge exercise  
Haunches in and haunches out  
Shoulder in and shoulder out  
Two tracking at a walk and trot  
Developing the foundation of a lead change  
Simple or interrupted changes  
Flying changes  
Putting Horsemanship patterns together  
Adding maneuvers to a Horsemanship pattern  
Putting together a perfect pattern  
Practicing Horsemanship patterns  
Practicing Horsemanship patterns  
Ranch Riding vs. Horsemanship  
Ranch Riding Pattern practice  
Ranch Riding vs. Reining  
Trail obstacles  
Perfecting a Trail Course maneuver by maneuver

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*