



**Stock Horse Equitation and Lab  
EQSC 335.001 and EQSC 335 L  
Spring 2026  
MWF 11:00-11:50 pm  
Location: Equine Lab  
Lab: MWF 12:00-12:50 pm  
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 is a hands-on study of the basic principles involved in training and showing of the versatile western stock horse in **collegiate stock horse competitions.**

***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:** Stock Horse of Texas Rulebook

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

**Corequisites:** EQSC 335 Lab

**Prerequisites:** Previous riding experience, **or** experience showing in SHOT, AQHA VRH or ASHA events, **or** instructor approval. **EQSC 140, EQSC 220, and EQSC 241 if you do not have previous riding or showing experience.**

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- a. Founding principles and philosophy of the Stock Horse of Texas and NIRSHA
- b. The selection and basic training of the competition Stock Horse
- c. The four classes in a Stock Horse competition
- d. Basic concepts of Stock Horse Pleasure
- e. Basic concepts of Stock Horse Reining
- f. Basic concepts of Stock Horse Trail
- g. Basic concepts of Working Cowhorse
- h. Preparing the Stock Horse for competition

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Basic Riding Skills Needed**

The student in this course should have a basic understanding of proper western 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 an independent seat and understand the use of their hands and legs in proper equitation.

They can elect to use a horse that they own themselves or they may use a University owned horse. If electing to use a horse of their own, the horse should be able to walk, trot, and lope both directions easily and confidently. They should be able to pick up either lead upon request, and have the basics of shoulder control, hip control, and the sidepass established. The horse should also be broke enough to allow a basic level of collection when going forward through up and downward transitions, stopping, and backing.

**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.**

**Appropriate Clothing:**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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 may choose 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.**

## **Instructional Methods**

We will spend our time in lecture discussing horse training theory and techniques that will be useful for competition in SHTX and Collegiate Stock Horse shows. We will learn the rules governing SHTX and NIRSHA competitions 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 the four classes in a Stock Horse competition. We may meet at designated times outside of the course for team practices either here at the ETAMU Equine Center or at outside facilities.

## **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 and complete quizzes over the rulebooks and lecture material. 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 evaluating the riding skills of the students, as well as, the performance level of horses used in the course and discussion of expectations of the level of care each horse needs. Students can elect to use a horse that they own themselves, or they may use a University owned horse. If electing to use a horse of their own, the horse should be able to walk, trot, and lope both directions easily and confidently. They should be able to pick up either lead upon request, and have the basics of shoulder control, hip control, and the sidepass established. The horse should also be broke enough to allow a basic level of collection when going forward through up and downward transitions, stopping, and backing.

The 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.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

### **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 need to complete weekly quizzes 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 lecture 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 in 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. You are expected to take all quizzes and complete discussions in the D2L LMS and will be held accountable for not doing so. I will post quizzes and discussion topics each week in D2L and you will be responsible for answering all quiz questions and discussions.**

Grades will be determined by the following:

Attendance and Participation = ~ **400 points**

Quizzes over Rulebooks = ~ **200 points**

Discussions = ~ **100 points**

Final assessment of skills = ~ **400 points**  
**1,100 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:

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**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

### ***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 OUTLINE / CALENDAR

## **Week 1**

Introductions to the course, expectations, and safety  
History and development of the stock horse, SHTX and NIRSHA

## **Week 2**

MLK Jr. Day – No class  
First riding evaluation  
Proper Warm-up for success in training and showing **Quiz #1- PRE QUIZ**

## **Week 3**

Pleasure Evaluation - Pleasure – gaits and transitions  
Credit earning transitions – Walk and extended walk  
Credit earning transitions – Jog and extended jog - **Quiz #2**

## **Week 3**

Credit earning transitions – Lope and extended lope  
Stopping and backing – Refining pattern strategy  
Showing in the Pleasure class and penalties/credits - **Quiz #3**

## **Week 4**

Reining evaluation  
Reining circles and speed control  
Spins – getting started right - **Quiz #4**

## **Week 5**

Cuing for credit earning spins  
Leads and simple changes  
Lead changes, turning simple into flying changes - **Quiz #5**

## **Week 6**

Stops and rollbacks  
Rundowns, Stopping and sliding  
Showing in the Reining class and penalties/credits - **Quiz #6**

## **Week 7**

Trail evaluation  
Trail obstacles and strategies  
Trail obstacles and strategies - **Quiz #7**

## **Week 8**

Walking, trotting, and loping obstacles, the side pass obstacle  
Walking, trotting, and loping obstacles, the bridge, slicker  
Walking, trotting, and loping obstacles, the gate and mailbox – **Quiz #8**

## **Week 9**

SPRING BREAK  
SPRING BREAK  
SPRING BREAK

## **Week 10**

Walking, trotting, and loping obstacles, backing obstacles  
Walking, trotting, and loping obstacles, the roping dummy and log drag

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**Week 11**

Showing in the Trail class and penalties/credits  
Boxing on the flag  
Boxing each other on horseback – **Quiz # 9**

**Week 12**

Fence work  
Circling and roping – **Quiz #10**

**Week 13**

Putting the cow horse run together  
Pleasure review

**Week 14**

Reining review  
Reining review  
Trail review

**Week 15**

Trail review  
Cow Horse review  
Cow Horse review

**Week 16**

**Finals Week**