VETT 325 Veterinary Parasitology and Entomology Lecture
CRN 22085

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mrs. Catrina Soto, M.S., B.S., LVT
Office Location: VBMT 100
Alt Office: CASNR 233A
Office Hours: by appointment only
Office Phone: 903-886-5203
University Email Address: catrina.soto@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: email**
Communication Response Time:
> **M-F 24 hours**
> **F-Sun 24-48 hrs.**

COURSE INFORMATION

- **Required:**
    - Diagnostic Parasitology for Veterinary Technicians 6th Edition
        - by Charles M. Hendrix DVM PhD (Author), Ed Robinson CVT
        - ISBN-13: 978-0323389822

- **Recommended**
    - Veterinary Parasitology: Reference Manual 5th Edition
        - by William J. Foreyt (Author)
        - ISBN-13: 978-0813824192

Software Required: Any Internet vehicle including Google Chrome, Firefox, etc that follows that below supported browsers. Also, lecture materials, supplemental worksheets, videos, and slides will be available on D2L which will need to be opened using Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Power Point.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Optional Texts and/or Materials: There will be links to images, videos, and other supplemental materials.

Lecture:

This course is designed to introduce students to basic laboratory procedures and veterinary parasitology. This course will include, but not be limited to, the following: basics of parasitism, life cycles, pathogenesis, identification, and control of common internal (nematodes, tapeworms, flukes, and protozoa) and external (insects, mites, lice, fleas and ticks) parasites of veterinary and zoonotic importance in domestic animals.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the hosts, life cycles, pathogenesis, and diseases caused by common parasites that affect most domestic animal species.
2. Students will effectively be able to identify common internal and external parasites (genus and species) that affect domestic animals.
3. Students will recognize common treatments and protocols used to control common parasites of domestic animal species.
4. Students will be able to perform common laboratory diagnostic procedures to examine specimens.
5. Student will be able to properly collect, process and ship specimens to a referral laboratory for analysis.
6. Demonstrate the understanding of how to prepare, handle and submit appropriate samples for diagnostic analysis in order to ensure accuracy of results.
7. Students will learn their role as a veterinary technician, team member, and client educator in a laboratory, clinical, and diagnostic setting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed
Examples include: Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods
This section describes how the learning process will be conducted (delivery modalities, course structure, Getting Started and types of learning activities and assessments).

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course
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.

GRADING

1. **Attendance and Participation**

   - You are expected to come to class every day.
   - Excused absences must be discussed with the professor within 24 hours of a missed class, preferably before.
   - You are expected to be prepared for lab and ready to engage constructively with the assignment and classmates to increase learning and retention of the material.
2. **Professionalism**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- 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 working as a team to resolve conflict and improve processes?
  - Are you looking for resources or answers first before asking for help?
  - Are you contributing in a positive manner to the culture and environment of your
  - workplace?

3. **Assignments**

- **Late homework:** Homework will be due at a specific date and time. Unless discussed in advance, no late work is accepted.

4. **Journal Club and Rounds:**
   - As is a common practice in veterinary medicine we will have discussions aka "Rounds".
   - You will be expected to comment on at LEAST 2 other classmates. A good back and forth with comments, thoughts and additional questions are what makes "Rounds" a useful tool for learning even more from each other.
   - These posts need to be well thought out and exhibit critical thinking and meet all points listed within the initial discussion prompt to receive full credit. All posts and replies to posts need to be professional.
   - This is often done in an online format on the Veterinary Support Personnel Network (VSPN) and Veterinary Information Network (VIN) and in a face to face format in vet tech school, vet school, internships and residency programs. It is a crucial learning tool in veterinary medicine.

5. **Clinical Applications**
   - The Essential and Recommended Skills List (Skills List) is a resource for veterinary technology programs to utilize for curriculum development and instruction as well as an accreditation monitoring tool for CVTEA. The Skills List represents the complex role of the veterinary technician and encourages instruction in motor, critical thinking and clinical application skills at the entry veterinary technician level. A veterinary technician student, having completed the curriculum, will have gained the prerequisite knowledge and perspective to enable him/her to carry out the following decision making abilities.

5. **Parasite Management Project (lecture):**

   - Students will choose one large animal parasite species to create a management plan for. There will be an online sign-up sheet for topics and will require instructor approval. You will create a 1 page handout/ brochure for clients/owners on your specific animal, including specific instructions for its care, husbandry, diet and health. You will present your management plan to the class.

6. **Quizzes/Exams and Final Exam:**

   - Quizzes will be held periodically throughout the class and may be unannounced

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

- The final exam will be comprehensive/cumulative
- The final Lab Practical Exam will be comprehensive/cumulative
- The final exam format may include T/F, matching, multiple choice, and short answer.

The final grade in the course will be based on your accumulated total points during the semester according to the following distribution:

Attendance and Participation	100
Professionalism	50
Assignments	200
Study Guides/Flash Cards	100
Quizzes/Exams	250
Final Exam	100
Continue Education	150
Total	950

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

Task: Laboratory Procedures/Specimen Analysis		
▪ Identify blood parasites:	o Dirofilaria sp/Acanthocheilonema sp (formerly Dipetalonema sp)*	o Other blood parasites of veterinary importance
▪ Perform parasitological procedures for external parasites and identify:	o mites* o ticks* o flies*	o lice* o fleas*
▪ *Perform diagnostics procedures for parasites:*	o *Antigen kit*, direct*, Knotts** o *fecal flotation ** o *direct smear ** o *adhesive tape retrieval of pinworm ova*	o *flotation solution preparation* o *fecal sedimentation* o *centrifugation with flotation** o *perform fecal egg count using McMaster method*
▪ Identify common parasitic forms:	o nematodes* o cestodes*	o trematodes* o protozoa*

Required tasks are denoted by an asterisk (*).
Italicized text denotes hands-on (psychomotor) skills; all other text denotes didactic (knowledge-based) skills. The term "demonstrate" along with a didactic (knowledge-based) skill means that the instructor is free to determine the best method(s) for the student to demonstrate mastery or understanding of that particular skill to the instructor. The term "demonstrate" is not synonymous with "hands-on".

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Clinical Assessments

As part of an accredited program, we are to track the students progress in the listed skills and knowledge required by AVMA. The VBMT program students are required to register with the skills tracking program Trajecsys at the full cost based on the coordinators payment plan due to the students graduation date. This is a one time registration fee for the duration of the students participation of the VBMT program up to graduation.

The instructor will register the student but the student is financially responsible. Payment can be completed directly through Trajecsys or campus bookstore. If the student purchases the subscription via bookstore, the cost will differ.

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=universalmenu

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
Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies
NOT LATE SUBMISSIONS

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

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

[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:

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/committee-veterinary-technician-education-activities/cvtea-accreditation-policies-and-procedures-appendix-g

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*