VETT 326 Veterinary Parasitology and Entomology Lab
CRN 22085
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	**Mrs. Catrina Soto, M.S., B.S., LVT**
Office:	VBTL 100
Office number:	**903-886-5203**
Office hours:	By appointment via email
Email:	**catrina.soto@tamuc.edu**

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s)
- **Required:**
  - Diagnostic Parasitology for Veterinary Technicians -current edition
    - by Charles M. Hendrix DVM PhD (Author), Ed Robinson CVT
    - ISBN-13: 978-0323389822

- **Optional:**
  - Veterinary Parasitology: Reference Manual – current 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.
Optional Texts and/or Materials: There will be links to images, videos, and other supplemental materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

Lab:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Hands-on laboratory course regarding the study of parasitology principles and procedures commonly utilized in veterinary medicine. This course is also an introduction to laboratory procedures and will include microscope care and use, sample collection, basic diagnostic analysis of fecal and other specimens and identification of parasites.

NOTE: This is the laboratory component of VETT 325 and must be taken in conjunction with it for all veterinary nursing students but is not required for non veterinary technology majors

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

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**
   - The students is expected to come to class every day.
   - Missing a lecture/lab can result in a delay in the student's curriculum.
   - Excused absences must be discussed with the professor within 48 hours of a missed class, preferably before.
2. **Assignments/ Worksheets**

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- **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **Final Exam:**
   - The final exam will be comprehensive/cumulative and will be given in class on:
     i. Time and Location TBA
   - The final Lab Practical Exam will be comprehensive/cumulative and will be given in class on:
     i. Time and Location TBA

   - The final exam format may include T/F, matching, multiple choice, and short answer. A scantron will be require which must be provided by the student. No smartphones/smart watches/tablets will allowed to be used on the exam.

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

Attendance and Professionalism:	100
Homework	100
Pre-Lab Quizzes:	140
Parasite Management Project:	50
Lab Reports:	200
Clinical Applications	100
Final Lab Practical:	100
Total	1000

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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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".

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

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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

The student can contact the instructor of record via the university email address listed on the syllabus. The average response time is 24 hours. This excludes weekends and holidays, response times will be 48-72 hours or the next business day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Failure to complete quizzes, test, assignments, and discussion post by the listed due date will result in a score of zero in the gradebook. There are no extra credit opportunities in this course, so attendance and coursework is necessary. Follow the course due dates and outline, the student will be successful!

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

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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

ADA Statement

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.

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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. http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html

AI use policy

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

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