



**Equine Training
EQSC 345.001 and EQSC 345 L
Spring 2026**

Class time: TR 10:00-10:50 am

Lab time: TR 11:00-11:50 pm

Location: Location: Equine Lab

Instructor: Nathan Wells

Office Location: AGIT 233 F

Office Hours: TR 8:00 – 9:00 or Friday 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

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials- Good fitting pair of riding boots and comfortable pair of jeans/pants to ride in.

Textbook: None

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course will focus on the selection of the proper horse (both physical ability and mental attitude) for a certain event. The student will learn to recognize peaks, camouflage weaknesses, and accent strengths. Students will use procedures learned in previous courses on a variety of horses and will create minor variations in each procedure to develop a product that is standard in response, style, and way of going. The duration of the semester will be spent progressing these horses to a predetermined, standard level depending on the discipline.

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.

Corequisites: EQSC 345L

Prerequisites: EQSC 241 or Instructor approval

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- a. How horses perceive and learn from stimuli.
- b. Form to function conformation and how it relates to the discipline chosen for an individual horse.
- c. Basic maneuvers every horse should know.
- d. Teaching a horse to learn.
- e. Review of basic body control exercises.
- f. Establishment of mental and physical discipline.
- g. How horses retain concepts taught over a period of time.
- h. Methods of training vs. intimidation.
- i. Understanding the rider's role in developing the horse.
- j. Setting training goals and progressing a horse from green to competition level.
- k. Developing a sports psychology plan for the rider.
- l. Developing a training program and conditioning regimen for horses of different disciplines.
- m. How to determine the right training program and timelines for individual horses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Basic Skills Needed

The student in this course should have a desire to learn about equine behavior and an understanding of equine safety. The course will be hands-on application of proven training concepts. The student must be willing to learn and actively participate in the learning process. The student should be able to ride comfortably at the walk, trot, and

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

lope, and feel the leads. The student should also be in good physical condition for riding and training horses. The student should have a positive attitude to advance both their horse and themselves toward their goals.

Instructional Methods

We will spend our time in lecture discussing training theory and techniques. Lab time will be spent applying lecture material.

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 participate in lecture and ask questions in discussion. The student will be expected to keep a riding journal 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 evaluating the training level of horses used in the course. The class will use horses owned by ETAMU and may at times use their own personal horses. 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.

GRADING

Grading Policy

Daily activities will consist of study and group discussion of specific skills, techniques and/or maneuvers. Each student will ride and practice maneuvers in order to advance both the student and animal 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.

Grades will be determined by the following:

Attendance and Participation = **300 points**
Weekly assignments = **150 points**
Training theory presentations = **400 points**
Final assessment of student progress = **200 points**
1,050 points

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

SAFETY is the #1 priority for labs!

Appropriate Clothing:

1. Riding boots with a riding heel. **Absolutely no “tenny lamas”, spike heels, or sandals.**
2. Loose fitting jeans or long pants. No shorts or skirts.
3. An appropriate shirt. No tank-tops.
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 wear a safety helmet when riding. (TAMUC will provide a helmet to all students or you may bring your own if you have an acceptable riding helmet). 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, especially in warmer weather.
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.

Thank you for signing up and let's have fun!

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit

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](#).

<http://www.etamu.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: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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 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.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 A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

SPRING 2026

Week 1 - Discussion of basic handling, grooming, tacking up, and groundwork. Review of basic equipment and tack needed. Discussion of proper fit of tack and equipment. Discussion of tools used to train horses for various discipline and how they are used.

Week 2 – How horses learn and equine psychology as it relates to training. What is form to function conformation and how important is it in determining a horse's potential. What about breeding and how does it affect the success of a horse at a particular discipline.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Week 3** – Development of a warm-up routine and basic body control exercises. Refinement of the basic body control exercises. Introduction of the gymnastic exercises needed to achieve enhanced performance for any discipline.
- Week 4** – The process of turning gymnastic exercises into maneuvers. The essential maneuvers to achieve a low to mid level of performance for any discipline. How to achieve a higher level of performance in a progressive timeline.
- Week 5** - Developing a training program and conditioning regimen for horses of different disciplines. How to determine the right training program and timelines for individual horses. Developing a work ethic in a horse.
- Week 6** - When to make modifications in a training program. Assessment of progress for each rider/horse combination. Common tools of horsemanship that may be used to advance training.
- Week 7** – Training the challenging horse and re-training older spoiled horses. Working through obstacles to increase suppleness, fitness, and avoid boredom of the horse.
- Week 8** – Cross discipline training for success in developing the athletic potential of the show/competition horse.
- Week 9** – Handling spooking and nervousness in horses. When to slow down to go faster.
- Week 10** – Spring Break
- Week 11** – The rider’s role in training horses and the importance of recognizing your limitations. How to assess a rider’s skill level and plan for improvement.
- Week 12** – Goal setting for a training program. Levels of competition and improvement steps. Knowing when to move on to a different horse.
- Week 13** – Strategies for winning in competitions.
- Week 14** – Sports psychology for the rider. Overcoming fear and adversity. Keep it fun and progressively moving forward. How does the right attitude determine success?
- Week 15** – Developing a maintenance and conditioning program once a horse is trained. Schooling and exhibition runs to correct problems
- Week 16** – Finals Week

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.