

The Horse Course
Course Director: Dr. Patrick Larkin
University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

I. Course information

Number: VME 4906
Phase: C term
Semester: Fall
Year: 2024
Course credit: 3
Format: online

II. General information

Course Director: Dr. Patrick Larkin, PhD
Course Instructor: Dr. Danielle Collins, PhD

Office hours: There are two ways to contact the Course Director (1) by email or (2) by using the discussion forum. Both tools can be found within the e-learning (Canvas) program. I check my email and the discussion forums daily and respond to students within 24-48 hrs during the workweek (Monday-Friday).

Course Faculty: Dr. Meghan Barboza⁵, Dr. Samantha Brooks³, Dr. Amanda House¹, Dr. Rick Johnson¹, Dr. Audrey Kelleman¹, Dr. Patrick Larkin¹, Dr. Martha Mallicote¹, Dr. Chris Mortensen⁸, Dr. Alison Morton¹, Dr. Sarah Reuss⁷, Dr. Chris Sanchez¹, Dr. Amy Stieler⁶, Dr. Sandra Tenbroeck³, Dr. Kelly Vineyard⁴, Dr. Rachael Watson², Dr. Heather Walden¹

¹ *College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida*

² *College of Medicine, University of Florida*

³ *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Florida*

⁴ *Purina Animal Nutrition*

⁵ *Southern Connecticut State University*

⁶ *North Carolina State University*

⁷ *Merial*

⁸ *New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology*

If you have technical problems with accessing the course web site, you can contact me or UF computer support:

The UF Computer support team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

****The quickest way to reach them is by phone****

Phone (for within the US): 352-392-4357, then select option 1

Phone (Toll free, International): 844-269-0441, then select option 1

Alternatively, you can email them as well: helpdesk@ufl.edu

III. Course description

The class will focus to a large extent on lectures and discussion to establish a baseline of information about the equine field. Important medical case studies and scientific papers will be discussed throughout the class.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Describe some common health issues in horses
- Recognize at a basic level healthy versus unhealthy conditions in horses
- Recognize the critical components of the scientific method in peer reviewed journal articles
- Characterize and distinguish major aspects of equine natural history, anatomy, and physiology

Prerequisite(s):

BSC 2010/2010L(Integrated Principles of Biology 1) and BSC 2011/2011L (Integrated Principles of Biology 1) AND two additional Science or Math classes. **Courses from other Colleges/Universities can substitute for these classes.

Examples of additional Science or Math classes include, **but are not limited to:** ANS 3006C (Introduction to Animal Science), MCB 3020 (Basic Biology for Microorganisms), AGR 3303 (Genetics), CHM 2045 (General Chemistry 1), CHM 2046 (General Chemistry 2), PHY 2053 (Physic 1), PHY 2054 (Physics 2), MAC 2311 (Calculus 1), STA 2023 (Statistics 1), ANS3216 (Introduction to Equine Science): or instructor permission.

**students should be in their sophomore year, or higher, to take this class

Course expectations:

Students will find it difficult to pass this course if they do not regularly log into the online class and complete assignments on a weekly basis. Online courses are not easier or less time consuming than classes on campus. Online classes are simply more flexible, and allow a student to work on the course material during various times throughout the day and evening. For this class, students will be reading and listening to lectures for ~2 topics per week.

How to access this class

You can access online courses by logging into UF's e-Learning website. Go to <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>, click "e-learning, Canvas Login" on the right side of the screen and then enter your Gatorlink username and password.

How the class works:

The class will focus to a large extent on lectures and discussion to establish a baseline of information about the equine field. For many of the various topics covered in the class, current scientific papers in the research field will also be reviewed. Students taking this class will gain an understanding of some of the latest research techniques used in the field and how these tools are being used to conduct scientific research. Important medical case studies will also be discussed throughout the class for the various lecture topics.

Course material for each week (except week 1) will be released the Friday before the week begins at 8AM, EST. Week 1 material will be released the first day of class.

Students will have the whole week to listen/watch the lectures, videos, and/or complete assignments. By the end of each week, students will need to take a Quiz or an exam. See section V (Evaluation/Grading/testing) for how the Quizzes and Exams will be administered.

- The lecture presentations are recorded and given by individuals from various institutions who are experts specializing in the various topics covered.
- Students will be tested on their comprehension of the topics discussed in the lectures by taking weekly quizzes as well as three exams. Students will see their quiz grades immediately upon submission. For the exams, students will see their scores after the exam window closes.
- Students will also need to participate in weekly discussion forums

IV. Course Materials

Required and recommended texts

No specific textbook is required for the class. Background reading material may be provided in PDF format for some lectures through links on the Canvas E-learning site. This material should be reviewed before viewing the lectures.

Additional Resources/ equipment

For the class students need to have: (1) a working computer, (2) an adequate internet connection, and (3) a webcam to take the exams (see testing requirements below). All other material is provided within the e-learning site. Specifically, recorded lectures and streaming access to videos will be provided through links on the Canvas E-learning site.

Lectures (via MediaSite technology)

To access the lectures within the e-learning program you will need your Gator Link User Name and Password. The first time you access the lectures, you may also need to download Silverlight if it does not automatically prompt you to do so. You may install Silverlight through the following link: <http://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default.aspx>

V. Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing:

Grading scheme

Grades will be proportioned as indicated in the tables below. *For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at: <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>*

The Course Director of the class will be administering and grading each of the exams and quizzes. A Teaching Assistant, if assigned to the class, will help with this process. For the exams and quizzes, questions on topic area are reviewed by the specific lecturer for that given topic. Discussion board participation involve making postings and responding to postings on Equine Topics on a weekly basis.

Grading Policy

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
E	0-59%

Percentage of grade	
Average of the Quizzes	25%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%

Quiz information:

Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true false questions. Each quiz can be taken up to two times and the highest score will be used for that particular weekly quiz grade. While a student does not have to take a quiz more than once; it is advised to take a quiz multiple times since this is an ideal study tool to improve one's grade for an exam.

Course material for each week (except week 1) will be released the Friday before the week begins at 8AM, EST. Students will have the whole week to complete the material and the student needs to take the assigned weekly quiz by 10PM (EST) on Friday of that week (see the course schedule for details). **There are no make-ups for the quizzes, unless coordinated with the Instructor. The quizzes need to be taken by 10PM EST each week.**

The quizzes are meant to be a study guide to prepare a student for the three exams. Because of this, students ideally should adhere to the same testing guidelines for the quizzes as will be enforced for the three exams (e.g. no notes, no book, no help from other students). ****Students do not need to take the quizzes using HonorLock or at a Testing Center****

Exam information:

The three exams will consist of multiple choice and true false questions. Tests can only be taken once. All exams need to be taken in a manner where the student can be proctored. This class will use HonorLock for online proctoring services for the three exams. HonorLock is an online proctoring service that allows exam takers to complete their assessment at home while still ensuring the integrity of the exam for the institution.

Prior to starting an exam, you will need the following:

- Government issued photo ID (or Student photo ID)
- Working camera and microphone
- Stable internet connection
- Google chrome browser (<https://chrome.com>)

Exams will be administered 8:00AM – midnight (Eastern standard time) on certain exam dates, which are listed below.

First exam date: September 23rd, 2024

Second exam date: October 28th, 2024

Third exam date: December 4th, 2024

You will have 60 minutes to take each exam.

The following items/actions are not permitted during the exam:

- No writing visible on desk or on walls.
- No websites other than Canvas and the Honorlock proctoring extension should be used or open while taking a proctored exam.
- Close all other programs and/or windows on the testing computer prior to logging into the proctored test environment.
- Make sure music/televisions are not playing in the background.
- Communication or receiving assistance from others is not permitted during a proctored assessment. Exceptions: contacting Honorlock support or your institution's help desk.
- No other persons except the test-taker should be in the room during testing.
- Using a phone or any other electronic device, other than your test-taking device, is not permitted.
- Remain visible in the web camera during the entire duration of the exam.
- Leaving the room during the testing period is not permitted.
- You must not take the computer into another room to finish testing (exam must be completed in the same room the "Exam Environment View" is completed in).
- Headphones or smart watches are not permitted
- Dual monitors are not permitted

If the HonorLock staff see you doing anything specified above, they will notify the Course Director. The Course Director will then give you a zero for that exam and will discuss further disciplinary action with you at that time.

Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact the Course Director. The UF [Student Health Care Center \(SHCC\)](#) or equivalent facility at your school, can provide a medical excuse note only if their providers are involved in the medical care of a student who must be absent from class for three or more days for medical reasons. A student who has a medical reason that results in fewer than three days of absence from class should talk with his/her professor rather than ask for an excuse note from the SHCC.

Don't forget to evaluate your instructors, visit the UF Evaluation site at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/>

VI. Administrative Policies: see Student Handbook @
<http://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/handbook.aspx>

Remediation

Students getting behind in their coursework should contact the Course Director for assistance.

Attendance

While daily attendance will not be monitored in this online class, students need to take Quizzes and participate on the discussion boards on a weekly basis.

Academic Honesty

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (352-392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (352-392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

Artificial Intelligence software

The use of generative tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted for:

- Brainstorming and refining your assignment ideas
- Researching assignment topics and information
- Drafting assignment outlines to organize your thoughts
- Checking assignment grammar and style

The use of AI is not permitted for:

- Impersonating you on discussion boards
- Writing sentences, paragraphs, or completing presentations and assignments
- Quizzes or exams

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

- UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 352-392-1575, psychological and psychiatric
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 352-392-1601, career and job search services.

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. “A Self Help Guide for Students” is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1575) and at their web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/>. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

If comfortable, please also contact the instructor directly after registering for this course so we can ensure accommodations are met in a timely manner.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Course outline and schedule

As the course progresses, I may find it necessary to adjust the below timetable, in which case you will be notified in advance.

Week of	Week #	Notable items	Material release date	Activity	Lecture Topic	Lecturer	Due Date
Aug.19	1	Class starts on August 22 , drop/add till Aug. 28TH	Aug. 22 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Welcome to the class	Dr. Patrick Larkin	Quiz due by Aug. 26 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Evolution and domestication	Dr. Patrick Larkin	
				Listen to lecture	Modern uses of horses	Dr. Sandra Tenbroek	
				Take Week Quiz			
Aug. 26	2		Aug. 23 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Breeds	Dr. Patrick Larkin	Quiz due by Aug. 30 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Breeds, contd.	Dr. Patrick Larkin	
					Ultrasonography video	Dr. Patrick Larkin	
				Take Week Quiz			
Sep. 2	3	No class on September 2ND	Aug. 30 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Preventative Health Care and Vaccinations	Dr. Amanda House	Quiz due by Sep. 6 , at 10 PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Case study, Newborn Foal	Dr. Amanda House	
				Take Week Quiz			
Sep. 9	4		Sep. 6 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Genetics	Dr. Samantha Brooks	Quiz due by Sep. 13 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Nutrition	Dr. Kelly Vineyard	
				Take Week Quiz			
Sep. 16	5		Sep. 13 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Overview of anatomy	Dr. Rick Johnson	Quiz due by Sep. 20 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Overview of neuroscience	Dr. Rick Johnson	
				Take Week Quiz			
Sep. 23	6	* there is both an Exam and a Quiz due this week	Sep. 20 at 8AM EST	Take Exam 1			September 23RD
				Complete activity	Ration analysis	Drs.Patrick Larkin and Kelly Vineyard	Quiz due by Sep. 27 , at 10PM EST
				Take Week Quiz			
Sep. 30	7		Sep. 27 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Musculoskeletal system	Dr. Alison Morton	Quiz due by Oct. 4 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Musculoskeletal system	Dr. Alison Morton	
				Take Week Quiz			
Oct. 7	8		Oct. 4 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	GI Physiology, and Colic Case Study	Dr. Chris Sanchez	Quiz due by Oct. 11 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	GI Physiology, and Colic Case Study, contd.	Dr. Chris Sanchez	
				Take Week Quiz			

Week of	Week #	Notable items	Material release date	Activity	Lecture Topic	Lecturer	Due Date
Oct. 14	9	No class on October 18TH	Oct. 11 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Reproduction	Dr. Audrey Kelleman	Quiz due by Oct. 17 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Reproduction, contd.	Dr. Audrey Kelleman	
				Take Week Quiz			
Oct. 21	10		Oct. 18 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Endocrinology	Dr. Chris Mortensen	Quiz due by Oct. 25 , at 10PM EST
				Take Week Quiz			
Oct. 28	11	* there is both a Quiz and an Exam due this week	Oct. 25 at 8AM EST	Take Exam 2			October 27TH
				Listen to lecture	Behavior	Dr. Sarah Reuss	Quiz due by Nov. 1 , at 10PM EST
				Take Week Quiz			
Nov. 4	12		Nov. 1 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Physical exam	Dr. Martha Mallicote	Quiz due by Nov. 8 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Sensory systems	Dr. Meghan Barboza	
				Listen to lecture			
				Take Week Quiz			
Nov. 11	13	No class on November 11	Nov. 8 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Equine parasites/parasite control	Dr. Heather Walden	Quiz due by Nov. 15 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Horses and Gene Therapy	Dr. Rachael Watson	
				Take Week Quiz			
Nov. 18	14		Nov. 15 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Welfare:Unwanted Horses	Dr. Amanda House	Quiz due by Nov. 22 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Case study, Pigeon Fever in Horses	Dr. Amy Stieler	
				Take Week Quiz			
Nov. 25	15	No class Nov. 25-29					
Dec. 2	16	Class ends on December 4TH		Take Exam 3			December 4TH