EQSC 345/L

EQUINE TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

**Instructor:** Petra Collyer DVM PhD

**Office Location:** AGIT 229

**Office Hours:** M W 8:00-10:00 am, and by appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5355

**Office Fax:** 903-866-5990

**University Email Address:** Petra.Collyer@tamuc.edu

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE TIME AND PLACE**

Time: lab TR 3:00-4:50pm
Location: LSTK005 (Equine Center)

**PREREQUISITES**

EQSC 240 minimum grade C

**MATERIAL**

Textbook(s) required: Equitation Science
Authors: Paul McGreevy and Andrew McLean
Wiley Blackwell, 1st edition 2010
Further required and recommended reading material will be posted on eCollege.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Undergraduate catalog description: “Horse Training. Three semester hours. (2 lecture, 2 lab).
Techniques of horse training. Students will be responsible for developing a weanling for their future under saddle. Emphasis on behavior modification and techniques involved in finishing a young horse. Class limited to 15 students.” Course description not updated yet, see next paragraph.

Rationale of the course: Horse training and behavior modification relies on the principles of applied learning theory in combination with applied knowledge of equine ethology. This course
teaches students to systematically assess normal equine behavior and to analyze the types of abnormal reactions in horses based on equine ethology. Further, students learn to reflect on their own leadership skills and their effect on the horse on the ground and under saddle. Case studies analyze horses of all ages and in various stages of training, and corrective treatment is implemented according to the ISES Training Principles. Labs are followed by practical application of a lecture topic. All students work with horses of three age groups (weanlings, 2-year-olds, and adult riding horses), upon which the case studies are based.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students shall be able to:

1) describe physiological and pathological equine behavior
2) apply principles of learning theory to horse behavior, learning and training
3) analyze and correct equine behavior according to the ISES training principles

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS / ACTIVITIES / ASSESSMENTS**

**Student Learning Outcome #1-3:** The student will synthesize knowledge from reading materials and laboratory discussions.

*Assessment Method:*
Question type: Multiple choice, matching, short-answer, true/ false
Online comprehensive final exam

**Student Learning Outcome #1-3:** The student will demonstrate practical knowledge of equine behavior and training

*Assessment Method: Practical assessment and written exams (in lab, weeks 5,10,15)*

**Student Learning Outcome #1-3:** The student will practice research and presentation skills.

*Assessment Method: Presentation of three case studies (one for each age group).*

**GRADING**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Time period</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>week 5</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>week 10</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>week 15</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (comprehensive)</td>
<td>finals week</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case study presentation</td>
<td>week 6-15</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>400</td>
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**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**
Course announcements are found on eCollege. The primary tool for communication is email. Questions or concerns are directed to Petra.Collyer@tamuc.edu, and students use their university myLeo account and adhere to the rules of netiquette (http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html). Emails are generally answered within 24 hours during regular business hours (Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm). Students can visit with the instructor during office hours (open door policy), or make an appointment via email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

COURSE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES
Attendance is taken each session. Students who miss more than three classes or do not complete the course requirements will fail the course. Make-up exams are only possible with a university-sanctioned excuse within three working days prior of after the regular exam date. In order to qualify for a make-up exam, the student is required to inform the instructor before the exam date and time, and present a document that provides evidence of an emergency or university activity. In case of an emergency on the date of an exam, inform the instructor via email on that day, and make sure to provide written evidence within three days.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

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
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

STUDENT CONDUCT
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week   tentative modules, topics may change  
1      Introduction to Equitation Science   
2      Equine Ethology and anthropomorphism  
3      Non-associative learning           
4      Associative (attractive and aversive) learning  
5      Exam  
6      Applying learning theory  
7      Training  
8      Biomechanics  
9      Unorthodox techniques  
10     Exam  
11     Horses in Sport and Work  
12     Apparatus  
13     Manifestations of the fight and flight response  
14     Ethical equitation  
15     Exam  
16     Comprehensive final exam