

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**Sam Houston State University**

**Course Syllabus: Spring 2008**

**DEPARTMENT:** Agricultural and Industrial Sciences  
**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** AGR 496; Selection and Evaluation of Horses  
**LOCATION OF CLASS MEETING:** Thomason, 320  
**CLASS MEETING TIME:** Monday 3 – 5 pm  
**LAB MEETING TIME:** Wednesday 3 – 5 pm  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Matthew L. McMillan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Animal Science

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Thomason – Room 310 B  
**TELEPHONE:** Phone: 294-1214  
E-mail: mlm018@shsu.edu  
Ag Main Office: 294-1215; Ag Fax: 294-1232

**OFFICE HOURS:** As posted or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will allow the student to become familiar with the basic concepts necessary to select and evaluate horses from a judge's perspective. Evaluation of conformation, balance, symmetry, cadence, suppleness, and impulsion will be used to understand these concepts. The ability to prepare and present oral reasons to support critical thinking and decision making skills will be reviewed.

**AT THE END OF THIS COURSE, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:**

- 1) Successfully evaluate horses according to breed standards
- 2) Have an understanding of the ideals of the horse under various situations
- 3) Successfully prepare and recite oral presentations according to official placings of horses

**REFERENCE MATERIAL:** Sam Houston State University Horse Judging Manual

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Departmental attendance policy listed below will be strictly enforced.

Department of Agricultural Sciences Attendance Policy

1. Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Sam Houston State University.
2. Excused absences must be documented by the student with a letter of confirmation from the sponsoring student organization, professor or doctor. Exemptions will include participation in departmental activities when prior approval is attained from the Department Chair.
3. No exams or assignments will be given at alternative times unless arrangements are made with the professor/instructor before the scheduled activity occurs.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:**

<b>Score Cards / Participation</b>	<b>(~50 classes)</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Oral Reasons</b>	<b>(10 sets)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>(10 quizzes)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>(Can be replaced by contests)</b>	<b><u>100</u></b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>500 points</b>

**GRADING SCALE:****A = 90 – 100%****B = 80 – 89%****C = 70 – 79%****D = 60 – 69 %****F = < 60%****ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (SHSU Academic Policy Statement 810213):**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT (According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook):**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: (According to the Faculty Handbook):**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with a disability which affects performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center who also serves as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone at (936)294-1720.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:**

An institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the professor in writing prior to the planned absence.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

<b>Wed Jan 16</b>	<b>Introduction / Halter</b>
<b>Mon Jan 21</b>	<b>MLK Day – No Class</b>
<b>Wed Jan 23</b>	<b>Halter</b>
<b>Mon Jan 28</b>	<b>Halter / Introduction to Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Jan 30</b>	<b>Halter / Quiz / Reasons</b>
<b>Mon Feb 4</b>	<b>Halter / Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Feb 6</b>	<b>Halter / Reasons</b>
<b>Mon Feb 11</b>	<b>Introduction to Western Pleasure</b>
<b>Wed Feb 13</b>	<b>Western Pleasure / Quiz / Reasons</b>
<b>Mon Feb 18</b>	<b>Western Pleasure / Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Feb 20</b>	<b>Western Pleasure / Reasons</b>
<b>Mon Feb 25</b>	<b>Introduction to Hunter Under Saddle</b>
<b>Wed Feb 27</b>	<b>Hunter Under Saddle / Quiz / Reasons</b>
<b>Mon Mar 3</b>	<b>Hunter Under Saddle / Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Mar 5</b>	<b>Introduction to Trail</b>
<b>Mon Mar 10</b>	<b>Trail / Quiz / Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Mar 12</b>	<b>Introduction to Western Riding</b>
<b>Mon Mar 17</b>	<b>Western Riding / Quiz / Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Mar 19</b>	<b>Introduction to Reining</b>
<b>Mon Mar 24</b>	<b>Reining / Quiz / Reasons</b>
<b>Wed Mar 26</b>	<b>Introduction to Hunter Hack</b>

**Mon Mar 31**  
**Wed Apr 2**

**Hunter Hack / Quiz / Reasons**  
**Introduction to Hunt Seat Equitation**

**Mon Apr 7**  
**Tues Apr 8**  
**Wed Apr 9**

**Hunt Seat Equitation / Quiz / Reasons**  
**Area IX FFA Horse Judging Contest**  
**Introduction to Western Horsemanship**

**Mon Apr 14**  
**Wed Apr 16**  
**Thurs Apr 17**  
**Fri Apr 18**  
**Sat Apr 19**  
**Sun Apr 20**  
**Mon Apr 21**  
**Tues Apr 22**  
**Wed Apr 23**

**Western Horsemanship / Quiz / Reasons**  
**Leave for Spring Trip**  
**NACTA Contest: Stephenville, Texas**  
**Workouts**  
**Workouts**  
**Workouts**  
**Workouts**  
**APHA Spring Sweepstakes: Fort Worth, Texas**  
**Return Home**

**Mon Apr 28**  
**Wed Apr 30**

**Introduction to Roping / Working Cowhorse**  
**Roping / Quiz / Working Cowhorse**

**Mon May 5**  
**Wed May 7**

**Introduction to Cutting**  
**Last Day of Class**