

Syllabus and Course Description

Course Information

AVS 397 Equine Internship

Work Experience at the J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center. Students work in teams to manage the University equine herd, including feeding, nutrition, health management, retraining of donated horses.

1-4 Credits

Prerequisites: AVS 303

Faculty Information:

Name: Robert Causey

Phone: (207) 922-7475 (cell)

E-Mail: rcausey@maine.edu

Meetings: By appointment

Instructional Materials and Methods:

No textbook is required. Main emphasis is on hands-on training at the farm, independent study and group discussion. An online barn manual may be accessed on google drive (Shared with Everyone in Barn > Barn Manual)

or under barn manual link at robertcausey.github.io

Course Goals: Students should develop the management skills to solve problems, guide less experienced co-workers, build consensus and resolve conflict in a technically and physically demanding work setting involving horses. Students will also expand knowledge in an area of equine science.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to oversee a team of less experienced peers in successful completion of specific, detailed, routine, tasks.
2. Students will be able to apply a problem-based approach in self-directed learning, facility management, and scientific study.
3. Students will increase their understanding of equine infectious diseases and apply it to management of horses.
4. Students will strengthen skills in consensus building, interpersonal communication, team-work and responsibility.
5. Students will strengthen proficiency in specific techniques related to equine management and science.

Instructional Methods:

1. Students will have responsibility for leading a team of less experienced students in routine care of the UMaine horse herd.

Students in AVS 397 represent experienced members of the horse barn. Having already attended for at least one, perhaps two semesters, you will be responsible for providing friendly and positive direction to students in AVS 303 and AVS 196, making sure chores are completed, recorded, and absences documented. You will need to make sure everyone knows each other by name on a chore, and make sure everyone on a chore feels welcome and useful. Remember that everyone needs to sign in on a chore. You may have to perform less glamorous tasks to give others a learning opportunity, or take on more tasks if necessary. You may call Dr Causey anytime if a problem occurs on a chore, and if you are not clear on what needs to be done in a particular situation.

With variable credits, the following is a guide to how many chores you should be doing.

		<u>Total for semester</u>		
Credits		Chores/week	Mornings	Noon Bring In
1 cr	2	5	3	5
2 cr	3	10	5	10
3 cr	4	15	7	15
4 cr	4	20	10	20

Attendance at barn meetings and completion of the horse chore requirement is essential to model good practice for students in AVS 303 and 196. Regular meetings are necessary to coordinate management of the horse herd, solve problems and resolve conflicts. People may catch up during spring break, finals week and summer if they are having trouble making requirements during the semester. Anyone with permanent scheduling difficulties due to class or work may make arrangements to permanently schedule specific AM and PM chore schedules throughout the semester. Remember that signing in the chore book is necessary. Enrollment in the class implies agreement by the student to meet these requirements.

Tallying chores

Chores for which you sign up will be tallied as follows:

Completed on time: 1 point

Complete or covered for someone else: 1 point

Not completed, but covered by another student and excused: 0 points

Not completed, and no arrangement made for coverage and no excuse – 1 point

These added together = Total Chore Tally

Chore tally calculation of Total Equine Dependability Index (TEDI) = Total Chore Tally/Total Signed Up

e.g.. You sign up for 30 chores, complete 25, miss 1 excused, miss 4 unexcused

$$\text{TEDI} = (25 + 0 - 4)/30 = 21/30 = 0.7$$

Missed chores: You are essential members of the farm, and attendance at chores for which you have signed up is necessary for safety of your fellow students and welfare of the horses. *Missing a chore is grounds for reducing your letter grade.* Only serious conditions out of your control can be a basis for excusing a missed chore. These include a medical emergency, flu, fire at home, family emergency, weddings, funerals, cancelled airline flights, car accident, dangerous driving conditions and severe weather. Situations within your control should not be considered excusable. These include conflicting work schedules, car trouble unrelated to weather, social events, studying for an exam, forgetfulness or trouble with your alarm clock. Students who miss chores repeatedly may be withdrawn from the class.

Tallying Stalls: A similar index for Stalls (STEDI) is computed in the same way. Your TEDI (and STEDI) give a picture of your dependability which is very important in this type of work setting. You are expected to do 2 stalls per credit hour per week.

Senior Interns: Interns with TEDI's in excess of 0.95, who consistently exceed total chore requirements and model good practice in the barn are eligible for consideration as Senior Interns. This means better letters of recommendation, greater levels of responsibility etc, but (unfortunately) perhaps more work overall, the usual reward for doing your job well.

2. Students will attend a series of lectures on equine infectious diseases and take two on-line take home examinations based on distributed materials and lecture content.

3. Under supervision, students may also improve training of UMaine horses, and augment their own horse-training skills.

Training sessions (lab sections):

This class is not intended to be a riding class, but re-training of the horse will in many cases lead to mounted activity during training sessions (lab sections). Students may choose not to ride, focusing instead on ground work, horse care and projects. Students should discuss the decision to ride or not ride with Dr. Causey at the beginning of the semester. Having made a choice previously, students can reverse a previous decision at the start of a new semester. Attendance at training sessions involving ground handling is mandatory for all students, whether they choose to ride or not. Riding may be restricted based on the student's ability, horse's level of training, safety concerns, lameness etc.

Horses are large animals and can be dangerous. The goal of training is to make a horse safe to work around. Although other horse facilities may have different ways to address this concern, for consistency it is necessary that all our students be trained to handle our horses in a specific way. Consequently, in this class you may be instructed in a method of handling which perhaps differs from what you have experienced previously. Ours is not the only way to train horses, but as a student in this class, please recognize

that you will be learning and applying our method. Some times it may be necessary for our trainer to take control of a horse that is misbehaving in order to correct it. If you have any questions about the rationale behind the training methods please ask. Questions about training methods are encouraged, and will not adversely affect your grade. However, animals must always be handled in the way we instruct.

Assessment, Grading and Course Expectations:

Attendance and chore requirement -33.3 %.

Lectures and Exams - 33.3 %

Training sessions - 33.3 %. Attendance and willingness to complete tasks covered.

Problems: If you are having any problems or concerns with the class please contact either Dr Causey. Your concerns will be kept confidential and expressing them will not adversely affect your grade.

Campus Policies

Academic Honesty Statement:

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314:

<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/>

Students Accessibility Services Statement

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (Robert Causey 207-922-7475 | rcausey@maine.edu) privately as soon as possible.

Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause):

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Observance of Religious Holidays/Events:

The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

Sexual Violence Policy**Sexual Discrimination Reporting**

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a faculty or staff member who is deemed a "responsible employee" about sexual discrimination, they are required to report this information to Title IX Student Services or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Behaviors that can be "sexual discrimination" include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?

The University can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one person reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?

An employee from Title IX Student Services or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution's obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution's ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution's response

The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.**

For confidential resources off campus: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-871-7741 or Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909.**

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: **Title IX Student Services: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1406, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911.**

[Visit the Title IX Student Services website at \[umaine.edu/titleix/\]\(http://umaine.edu/titleix/\) for more information.](http://umaine.edu/titleix/)