

**ANS 4231 Sec 1A01
Foaling Practicum
Spring 2015
1 hour credit**

Instructor: (reside on farm)

Farm Manager: Nick Carden nickcarden@ufl.edu Cell: 770-354-0558

Assistants: (reside on farm)

Student workers contact information will be made available during shifts.

Location: UF Equine Sciences Center 2655 NW 100th St. Ocala, FL 34475
(Commuting is expected, transportation will not be provided)

Other contact information: To be announced and posted at a later date.

Course Objectives:

- Attendance is mandatory
- Gain hands-on experience with the foaling process
- Understand steps in preparing mares for foaling
- Observe mares during foaling and recognize when assistance is warranted
- Learn skills necessary to assist during foaling
- Provide post-natal foal care
- Learn proper handling and care of the newborn foal

Course Format:

Classroom Session

Part 1 – Online - before orientation: Students must view an online power point presentation and foaling video. Students must complete an online quiz worth 10% of the course grade. The online presentation/quiz will be accessible via Canvas. The presentation will cover the foaling process and some rules and regulations regarding this course. Complete this on your own time before the orientations (*To Be Announced*).

Part 2 –Students must attend one of two farm orientations during drop/add week of classes (*To Be Announced*) at the Equine Sciences Center in Ocala.

Farm Orientation Sessions: January 4 or 5th. Time is 6pm to 8pm.

Orientation Location: Equine Science Center, Laboratory Classroom

You are required to attend only ONE of the farm orientation sessions. Orientation will be held on location at the Equine Science Center in Ocala, FL. This orientation will cover your responsibilities as a foal watcher and introduce you to the broodmares and foaling staff. **Please determine if you are interested in staying in the class before drop/add is over by thoroughly reviewing the requirements. You are stuck with the responsibilities if you realize later you don't like the class. Accountability and attendance are the largest requirements.** If you decide not to stay in the class, you have until *the end of drop/add* to drop this course from your schedule. **You must complete the online portion and one farm orientation in order to stay enrolled in this class.** If you have a problem attending one of the farm sessions, please email me at nickcarden@ufl.edu to discuss options.

Foal Watch Appointments

After the orientation sessions, the foal watch schedule will be made available via Canvas. Starting January 6 at 8am you will be able to schedule your own shift times by using the appointment scheduler in Canvas under the calendar tab. Each shift will have 3 appointments available. This means there is maximum of 3 students per shift with 2 shifts each night. You are responsible for scheduling yourself and will be held accountable for attending the required amount of shifts. Of your shifts, half of them must be the 1st shift and half must be the 2nd shift. The schedule will be divided into two shifts per night:

1st shift - 6pm to midnight

2nd shift - midnight to 6am

Shifts are held every night throughout the semester **including weekends.**

Typically a student will have an assigned shift once every ~10 nights for a total of 8 to 10 assigned foal watches. **The number of shifts directly correlates with the number of students in the class. The total number of shifts required could change after drop/add.** Remember the more shifts you attend the higher the chance of seeing a mare foal. Appointments will be limited, monitored, and added as necessary. After an appropriate amount of time for students to schedule their appointments, the calendar will be locked.

Conflicts

At some point during the semester the majority of students will have a conflict with one of their appointments. These scheduling conflicts will be resolved by each individual student switching that shift with another student's shift. ***An absence from an appointment will not be excused due to a scheduling conflict. Absences will only be excused with an official note from a professional aka the doctor.*** (there will be plenty of students who want to make switches throughout the semester, trust me).

To make an appointment change you must first contact the student whom holds the desired appointment and ask permission to change. Then if that student gives his/her permission then you both will need to email me (nickcarden@ufl.edu). I will then

change the appointment myself. You must make the change at least a day prior to your original appointment time.

Communication

Our ufl.edu email addresses will be the “official” mode of communication during this course. **It is critical that you check your ufl.edu email account every day AFTER 5pm during this course.** All decisions made as to whether to cancel a particular foal watch night or to revoke a previous cancellation will be made during the daily afternoon mare check between 4pm and 5pm by the ESC staff.

All enrolled students will be part of the list-serve: SPRING-1A01-L@lists.ufl.edu from which you will receive emails about the class. It is possible for you to send emails to the entire class using this list-serve address (such as when you are looking for someone with which to switch a shift), **however, it does not happen automatically.** When you send an email to SPRING-1A01-L@lists.ufl.edu the server sends me an email asking to approve the message. Once I approve it, the email will be sent to the entire class roll. **I generally do not check my email account after 5pm or over the weekends.** If you have an emergency and/or desperately need to get a message out after 5pm on a Friday, call/text me at 770-354-0558.

You will be required to provide a cell phone number at which you can be contacted for any “last minute” scheduling adjustments. Cell phones and the land-line in the mare barn lab will also be the mode of communication between foal watchers on-site and the ESC staff.

Farm Policies

There is a strict NO DOGS policy for farm visitors.

No smoking is allowed.

Only students enrolled in the course should be present during the foal watch.

Transportation

You will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the Equine Sciences Center. Car-pooling is encouraged. The farm is located approximately 25 miles south of Gainesville near Ocala (40 minute drive).

Directions:

Via US Hwy 441 south towards Ocala, continue **3 miles past** the traffic light from where Hwy 441 and Hwy 301 merge. Turn right on the Martin/Anthony road (NW 100th Street

just past Ocala Downs) towards Martin. Go ½ mile and the farm will be on the right (blue UF sign at the entrance).

Via I-75 south towards Ocala, exit #358, turn left onto CR 326, cross under the interstate and go to the next traffic light past the railroad tracks. Turn left onto CR 25-A, go approximately 2 miles and turn right onto NW 100th Street just past the Quick King gas station. Go 1 1/2 miles, farm on your left (UF sign).

Entrance Gate: please keep the gate closed at all times

Grading:

1) Online Quiz – 10%

2) Attendance/Reliability—70%

- You are required to complete the online presentation/quiz BEFORE attending one of the two offered farm orientations.
- You are required to arrive on time for all foal watch assignments.
- If a conflict arises with your scheduled foal watch, **YOU are responsible for finding a replacement watcher from your class.**
- If you change a foal watch date, **YOU must notify the instructor via email of the student who will be replacing you before 5PM** on the scheduled date for watch.
- Any unexcused absences and/or missed foal watches will result in failure of the class.
- Communication between yourself and your team members, other students in the class and your instructors is **YOUR responsibility.**
- **Attendance will be taken for the farm orientations and each foal watch shift throughout the semester.**

3) Fulfillment of Duties – 20%

You will be required to:

- Assemble the foaling kit upon arrival.
- Perform an evaluation of mares that are close to foaling.
- Watch mares throughout your shift.
- Notify the responsible person on call for that night of initial signs of parturition.
- Complete the foaling record.
- Assist with obtaining colostrum from the mare, dipping the foal's navel and administering an enema to the newborn foal.
- Based on your personal comfort level, you may be asked to assist with various other tasks as the need arises.

Grading Scale: **A** (90-100%); **B** (80-89%); **C** (70-79%); **D** (60-69%); **E** (<60%)

Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed 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."**

Disability Clause

"The Dean of Students Office provides individual assistance to students with documented disabilities based upon the need and impact of the specific disability. There is no requirement for a student to self-identify his/her disability. However, students requesting classroom accommodations must register with the Dean of Students Office in 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261 (Voice) 392-3008 (TDD)."

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students 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.

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. **University Counseling Center**, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. **Student Mental Health**, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
3. **Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education**, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling
4. **Career Resource Center, Reitz Union**, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
5. **Campus Alcohol and Drug Resource Center**, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261, drug and alcohol counseling
6. **Office of International Studies and Programs**, 123 Tigert Hall, 392-1345, assistance provided for international students