

Horse Psychology and Training ANS4218L

Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR

Mr. Joel McQuagge

210B Bldg 459

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OFFICE HOURS

My schedule varies week to week, but I am typically in the office Mon. and Wed. from 8:00 – 11:00. You may also call for an appointment or see me before class at the HTU.

Department Chair

Dr. Jason Farrell

100 Animal Sciences Building

392-1911

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Ms. Maggie Nelson mgrace.nelson@ufl.edu

Ms. Kendall Umberger kumberger@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ANS4218L allows students an in-depth examination into the methods by which horses communicate, learn and are trained.

Students will be assigned a yearling or two-year-old. Horses will be trained to lead, tie, longe, drive, trailer load and accept handling for routine management practices. These horses will also be started under saddle and bridle, receive first rides and be carried as far as time and expertise will allow.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Upon completion of this course students will be able to formulate a system of logical progression in a training program.
- Students will have a stronger ability to evaluate a horse's personality and develop a training program to fit that personality for positive equine learning outcomes.
- This course will help students learn to adjust an individual training session, when necessary, as it progresses.
- Students will learn visual communication and the importance of body language when dealing with horses.
- Students will learn techniques to develop mutual respect with a horse.
- Students will develop the basic skills necessary for starting a horse under saddle in a safe and positive manner.

COURSE FORMAT

Support materials will be presented by instructors and discussed with students during Monday lecture/demonstrations. M, W, F, students will work hands-on with their horse. The class will gather as needed to problem solve with individual horse and riders. All types/styles of training are open for discussion.

This course is 2 credits.

SCHEDULE

Lecture- Monday 8th per. 3:00-3:50

Labs- Monday 9th per. 4:05-4:55

W, F, 8th & 9th per 3:00-4:55 Horse Teaching Unit

CLASS ATTENDANCE & EXPECTATIONS

This course requires a large time commitment to achieve goals with your horse. If you are unable to make this commitment, do not take this course. If you must miss a scheduled class, permission must be received in advance. Absence due to illness will require written verification from the University Health Center or your doctor.

Working with livestock is inherently risky. Many of these animals are capable of injuring people, especially when they are in the flight or fight mode inspired by a stressful situation. Instructors will work to provide students with the ability to manage horses with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and animals.

PREREQUISITES

Students must be able to demonstrate substantial previous riding experience.

TEXT

Principles and Techniques of Horse Training and Management (S.P. Webb, C.A.)

Evidence-Based Horsemanship

(S. Peters & M. Black)

Hand-outs will also be utilized

EQUIPMENT

All horses will be started in a Western saddle & bridle provided by the University. Once well started, your horse may be ridden with an English saddle. ***The University will provide riding helmets or students may provide their personal helmets.***

2025 Important Dates

No Class

Labor Day 9/1

Homecoming 10/17

Thanksgiving 11/24-28

Last day of Class 12/3

GRADING

Participation and Progress

40% Total Grade

1. Participation in the discussion and hands on activities are essential in this course. This will be based on observations by the instructor and teaching assistants.

- **Attendance and Participation for Labs Attended = 5 points maximum per lab;
39 x 5 = 195 points maximum per semester**

Level of Participation in Lab	Points Possible
Attended lab and participated freely and volunteered without hesitation with outstanding attendance	5
Attended lab, but student had to be asked to participate on a regular basis	4
Attended lab, but slow to participate and had to be strongly encouraged to be involved with multiple instances	3
Attended lab, but often did not participate	2
Attended lab, but failed to participate	1
Did not attend lab	0

Each day students will be graded on a 0 – 5 scale following the rubric above. A minimum of zero points will be assigned to students on labs they fail to attend and a maximum of 5 points will be assigned to students who attended and participated freely in that week's lab. After each lab, students will receive notice of their lab score so they have the opportunity to improve their score in subsequent labs. A maximum of 285 total points may be used to calculate a student's lab grade for attendance and participation throughout the semester. With approximately 57 labs per semester, this will allow for two dropped lab grades in the case of an absence(s). If a student has more than 2 absences for excused absences or emergencies consistent with university policies, then the student must make arrangements with the instructor for make-up assignments or assessments as soon as possible.

Stall maintenance	5% Total grade	A=90-100%	C=70-74.9%
Three 20-point quizzes	40% Total grade	B+=85-89.9%	D+=65-69.9%
Training Journals	15% Total Grade	B=80-84.9%	D=60-64.9%
		C+=75-79.9%	E=<60%
Total	100%		

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluer.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

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.

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)

Additional class Information

- 4218L will be taught in its entirety at the University of Florida Horse Teaching Unit.
- The class will meet for Lecture/demonstration on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:00 in the HTU classroom, arena, bleacher seating, round-pens or Farrier Teaching area.
- Students will work with their horses on Mondays from 4:00 to 4:55 and Wednesday, Fridays from 3:00 to 4:55.
- If the instructor is absent, the teaching assistants will direct the class.
- Students missing class for health-related reasons will receive an excused absence in accordance with UF guidelines.
- This class will meet at the HTU during all-weather excepting the closure of the university for hurricane preparedness.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.
- ***This course involves some time spent independently with your horse. Success is achieved through focusing on your horse's needs at that moment in their life. Please train yourself to leave distractions in the parking lot and you will find immense satisfaction in your horse's progress.***



DATE	Lecture / Demo Topics
Week 1	Facility Tour, Course overview, Pictures, Safely handling horses in training Equine Communication and presentation of cues
Week 2	Getting to know the horses
Week 3	No Class– Labor Day
Week 4	Haltering & Tying, Training to the Walker Sensitizing, Desensitizing and Sacking Out
Week 5	Wash Rack, Handling Feet, Handling Ears, More Sensitization & Desensitization
Week 6	The Longe Line and Lateral Longeing – yielding the head, hips & shoulders; sidepass
Week 7	Quiz Trailer Loading - Sidepass to the fence to accept rider
Week 8	Clippers Developing a Positive Learning Attitude Behavior Modification and Methods of Reinforcement
Week 9	Round Pen Training
Week 10	Saddle Fit and Saddling the Green Horse
Week 11	Quiz Saddling green horses, Bridling a young horse
Week 12	Bitting and Driving
Week 13	No Class Veterans Day
Week 14	Bitting and driving or mounting and first rides
Week 15	No Class – Thanksgiving
Week 16	Mounting and First Rides or Quiz Rein Aids, Yielding the face under saddle Online Course Evaluation

