

Horse Care and Grooming

ANS 4231

1 credit

Fall 2025

Section GSSA

Orientations

**Tuesday
8:45-10:45 am**

Field Work

**Flex schedule
2 days per week.**

Location

**Horse Teaching Unit
1934 SW 63rd Ave
Gainesville, FL 32611**



Course Description

Grooming and care of horses is a significant part of horse ownership and the least considered when most people purchase their first horse. This course emphasizes the time commitment and effort required to own and care for the normal horse. Course content will include safety around horses, understanding general psychology and horsemanship, horse identification, basic nutrition, stabling, and grooming.

Objectives

Practicum courses offer hands on approaches to skills development and improvement that is founded on the science of actual production models. During this course you will develop and adapt the following skills:

The general objectives of this course will provide a basic working foundation that:

- Build foundational basic-safe horse handling and horsemanship skills.
- Improves confidence in handling and basic care needs of horses such as catching, haltering, leading, bathing, and handling feet.
- Provides an introductory look at basics of owning a horse including feeding, grooming, and general foot care.

Your Professor's

Justin Callaham
459-210E ANS Building
352-294-6754
callaham@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Before or
after class at HTU or by
appointment.



Angela Chandler
Horse Teaching Unit
352-376-0562
angelachandler@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Before or
after class or by
appointment.



Student Learning Outcomes	Weekly Requirements
At the end of this course, students will be expected to demonstrate the following outcomes, • Identify the purpose and proper haltering techniques of nylon/leather and rope halters. • Safely catch, halter, and lead/handle the horse. • Safely turn a horse loose back into the pasture. • Demonstrate effective grooming and foot care techniques. • Demonstrate critical thinking skills when dealing with the troublesome horse. • Demonstrate a basic understanding of horse colors and markings. • Demonstrate proper stable care needs of horses in a barn.	Students are expected to care for a horse 2X per week for the duration of the semester. Routine Care Requirements: • Curry, brush body, brush mane and tail each day. • Inspect horses for wounds and illness. • Pick out feet and apply foot treatments as needed. • Apply topicals and fly spray as needed. • Clean stalls. • Feed, hay, and water horses.

Course Policies

- Practicums are **work experience classes** that **may require you to work independently or with limited supervision at times**. Students will meet bi-weekly to evaluate their skills development with instructors and discuss any individual concerns.
- Communication is very important. If you have any questions or problems, please reach out to your instructors as soon as possible.
- Due to **course scheduling constraints**, students are allowed **1 shift swap during the semester**. All other requests will need to be evaluated as a university absence.
- Class begins promptly at the designated start times. Students will be marked absent if more than 10 minutes late. Students with course conflicts should notify an instructor as soon as possible if you have an issue.
- **Appropriate attire** is required for the safe handling of young horses. This includes long denim pants that cover the ankles, short/long sleeve shirt, leather type work boot that covers the ankles.
- In the event of **inclement weather**, please check the “Announcements” section of Canvas to see if there has been any adjustment to the class meeting schedule. Weather conditions change rapidly, and last-minute class cancellations may occur based on rain and lightning events. Any cancellation will be sent with at least 30 minutes notice.

Working with Livestock

Working with livestock will require students to adhere to handling practices provided by the instructor either in written or verbal format. Animals are capable of injuring people, especially when they are in the flight or fight mode inspired by a stressful situation. The instructor will work to provide students with the ability to manage livestock with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and animals.

Course Schedule and Attendance

- Horse Care Days – Shift Requirements

Term	Credit	Weekly Attendance Requirement
Fall	1	• 2 SHIFTS PER WEEK

- This course utilizes a flex schedule for weekly horse care requirements of assigned horses. *Students are required to attend 2X per week to take care of an assigned horse(s).* Students may sign up for shifts in Canvas. Once students choose their individual schedule, this schedule will be observed for the remainder of the semester.
- First Orientation will be held on August 21st, 3:00 - 4:30 pm.**
- All other orientation meetings will be held on designated Wednesdays (9/11, 10/9, & 11/6), 3:00 – 4:30 pm.
- Class grade will be **lowered one +/- letter grade with excessive unexcused absences (>2)**. Excused absences are consistent with university policy and require appropriate documentation. Confirmed illnesses, family emergencies, military/jury duty, religious observances, and university-sponsored events will be excused with proper documentation. For each of these instances, you must (1) provide written documentation from an authority (such as a doctor's note, commanding officer, published obituary, etc) and (2) complete the 'Absence Documentation Form' in Canvas.

UF Handbook Link: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Class Demeanor & Dress

Students are expected to arrive on time, wearing appropriate dress, and behave in manner that is respectful. Please avoid the use of cell phones. Appropriate attire is long pants, short/long sleeve shirt, closed toed shoes - preferably made of leather and no dangling jewelry. Students arriving in flip flops or other open toed shoes will be sent home.

Important Dates

August 21	Fall classes begin
August 21	First Class Day / First Orientation (3:00 PM @ HTU) – Horse and Farm Safety Orientation
August 25	Regular Horse Care Days Begin
September 11	Farrier Skills Discussion
October 9	Equipment Safety
November 6	Fourth Orientation
November 21	End regular horse care days.
December 1 – 3	No class this week.

Grading Scale

Letter	Percentage
A	95 – 100
A –	90 – 94.9
B +	87 – 89.9
B	83 – 86.9
B –	80 – 82.9
C +	77 – 79.9
C	74 – 76.9
C –	70 – 73.9
D +	67 – 69.9
D	64 – 65.9
D –	60 – 63.9
F	< 60

Grading

Evaluation	% of Grade
Class participation is expected. Students must attend 2 horse care shifts per week. Attendance is worth 50 points per week. - In the event a student must miss class, notify Mr. Callaham or Ms. Chandler before the absence. Only 1 shift swap permitted for term. - There will be no makeup days offered in this course. Class grade will be lowered one letter grade with excessive unexcused absences (>3) - Excused absences are consistent with university policy. Link to UF Catalog Attendance Policies https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext	60%
Assignments and Practical's	15%
Class Orientation Meetings This course will meet on the following Thursdays for group orientations and discussions relevant to horse safety, farrier skills, tractor driving boot camp, etc.	25%

Excused Absence Policy

Excused absences are consistent with university policy. Confirmed illnesses, family emergencies, military/jury duty, religious observances, and university-sponsored events will be excused with proper documentation. For each of these instances, you must provide written documentation from an authority (such as a doctor's note, commanding officer, published obituary, etc). Link to university policy

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext>

In Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Assistance Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal difficulties that interfere with general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students experiencing difficulties or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance:

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,

Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

If you are having problems comprehending lecture and (or) lab material or have other academic, university, or personal issues that are affecting your academic performance, please feel free to visit with the instructors to address the problem(s). Please do not wait until the end of the semester to address any difficulties you may be having.

Safety and Emergency Contact Information

Student Name: _____

Course Name: _____ Section #: _____

Initials

- _____
1. **Risk Acknowledgement.** Working with large animals involves a risk of severe injury or death. Students are limited to designated class times and should never be alone on the farm. Due to the spread-out nature of the farm, you may be expected to perform some work experience tasks with limited or no supervision. The course will provide various safety orientation sessions to establish best practices for the course.
 - _____
 2. **Check-in Requirement.** Students should never proceed with the days activities with out checking in with a staff member and receiving instructions for the day. Students will meet at the TBarn with a Horse Teaching Unit staff member for a short informational session at the beginning of each shift.
 - _____
 3. **Appropriate Attire.** All students working with animals at the Horse Teaching Unit MUST wear the appropriate PPE. For this course, you must wear denim jeans that cover the ankle and wear approved leather footwear that covers the ankles. Students will not be permitted to participate in class without the appropriate attire. You will not be able to participate in class if you are not dressed appropriately and you will receive a 0 for that session.
 - _____
 4. **General Hazards.** Working on an active farm involves hazards from large animals, heavy equipment, passenger vehicles, lifting heavy objects, inclement weather, stinging insects, and venomous snakes. As a general practice, you should always be aware of your surroundings and know your own limitations. When hesitant, you should always seek advice before proceeding.
 - _____
 5. **Injury Assessment.** Instructors and staff have broad discretion when assessing any on farm injuries. You will be involved with the injury assessment and should be prepared to advocate for your health-related needs..
 - _____
 6. **Injury Procedures.** What to expect if you are injured.
 - a. We will help you evaluate any non-life threatening injury such as a laceration, bruise, etc. and work with you to develop the most reasonable action plan based on your preferences.
 - b. If you receive trauma to your chest, head, or abdomen, we will require you to visit an emergency room.
 - c. We will help you evaluate your transportation needs and make sure you have safe transportation to medical care. This may be by state vehicle with a staff member, transportation from a friend/relative, or by ambulance.
 - d. We will help you contact your emergency contact to pick you up at the farm, come to the ER, etc.
 - e. Keep in mind that we cannot make medical decisions for you.
 - _____
 7. **Health Insurance.** All students are required to have proof of health insurance in compliance with UF's health insurance requirement for all students enrolled in degree-seeking programs. Comprehensive health insurance coverage is important due to the potential costs associated with horse related injuries.
 - _____
 8. **Emergency Contact Form.** All students are required to complete the emergency contact form and notify staff of any changes during the term.
 - _____
 9. **Warning.** Under Florida law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.

Certainly! Let's evaluate the liability disclaimers for your university equine course. Here are my suggestions:

1. **Risk Acknowledgment:** The first disclaimer about the risk of working with large animals is clear. However, consider adding a brief statement about safety protocols during class times and the importance of adhering to them.
2. **Check-In Requirement:** The second point emphasizes checking in with staff before proceeding with activities. It's essential for safety. You might want to specify how students should check in (e.g., location, procedure).
3. **Appropriate Attire:** The third point regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) is crucial. Consider specifying the consequences if students fail to comply (e.g., not participating in class). Also, clarify what "approved leather footwear" means.
4. **General Hazards:** The fourth point covers various hazards. Consider adding specific examples (e.g., tractor operation, handling large animals) to make it more relatable. Encourage students to seek advice when unsure.
5. **Injury Assessment:** The fifth point about injury assessment is excellent. You might want to mention the role of instructors and staff in this process explicitly.
6. **Injury Procedures:**
 - a. Clarify that non-life-threatening injuries will be evaluated by whom (staff, medical professionals).
 - b. Specify the criteria for requiring an emergency room visit (e.g., severity of trauma).
 - c. Provide more details on transportation options (state vehicle, friend/relative, ambulance).
 - d. Mention the importance of contacting emergency contacts promptly.
 - e. Reiterate that medical decisions are the student's responsibility.
7. **Health Insurance:** The seventh point is essential. Consider emphasizing the need for comprehensive health insurance coverage due to potential costs associated with horse-related injuries.
8. **Emergency Contact Form:** The eighth point is straightforward. Ensure students understand the importance of keeping their emergency contact information up to date.

Remember to customize these suggestions to fit your specific course context. Feel free to incorporate any additional details or legal requirements relevant to your university.  ¹²³

EMERGENCY CONTACT
Information Sheet

Please complete this form so that we have a record of whom to contact should an emergency arise. At least 1 contact should be local that can meet and stay with you at a medical facility.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ UFID #: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

LOCAL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Alternate Phone: (_____) _____

Have you informed this contact about listing them on this form? Yes No

In the event the above person cannot be reached, please contact:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Alternate Phone: (_____) _____

Have you informed this contact about listing them on this form? Yes No

Comments: