

**ANS 4605 - Horse Judging
University of Florida
Fall 2025**

Instructor/Coach:

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Textbook

2025 AQHA Rulebook. Additional materials will be provided on Canvas. UF Horse Judging Manual (provided).

Course Website on Canvas

Canvas will contain notes, assignments, your grades, articles and useful links, and announcements.

Time & Location

Class will meet **twice a week** at the Horse Teaching Unit. Days are TBD based on class schedules.

Course Description

This course offers advanced training in detailed evaluation of conformation and athletic performance of horses culminating with participation in national intercollegiate horse judging competitions.

Course Objectives

This course will focus on preparing students to correctly evaluate a horse in several disciplines. By the end of the semester, the student should be able to effectively evaluate and truthfully defend their opinion of a horse in each discipline. Successful completion of this course implies the student will be able to:

- 1) Write and deliver oral sets of reasons.
- 2) Score in the 90th percentile in placing classes.
- 3) Make decisions quickly and confidently
- 4) Comfortably speak in front of a group
- 5) Compete successfully at the intercollegiate level.

Attendance

Absence from mandatory class meetings or workouts without instructor approval will result in not being able to travel to competitions. **Two unexcused/non-justified absences will result in one letter grade drop.** Additional absences will be considered for an additional drop in a letter grade. Special circumstances need to be addressed with the instructor and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will follow the current UF policy. University attendance policy can be found at:

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

Class Policies

Being a member of a judging team can be one of the most valuable experiences of your college career. Instructors at this university and many others consider students who compete on judging teams to be the “elite” of their programs. Professional behavior, language and appropriate attire is expected at all times. **To be successful at competitions you will need to practice OUTSIDE of scheduled class time. We will attempt to schedule some weekend workouts as opportunities arise. The instructor and/or the teaching assistants are available to facilitate watching extra videos and/or giving extra sets of reasons. Team trips to local shows and events should be expected.**

Travel

A team consists of 5 members. Most contests allow two teams per school. The top five ranked class members will compete on the first team, followed by the next top five for the second team. Other students may compete as individuals. Each student’s opportunity to compete on a traveling team will be based on the following criteria, all to be weighted evenly:

★ Effort ★ Attendance ★ Timeliness ★ Attitude ★ Placing scores ★ Reasons scores ★ Teamwork

Entry fees and travel expenses (minus meals) are paid for by the University, **as budget permits**. Team members are expected to assist with fundraising and outside judging events throughout the year to maintain necessary budget for travel.

Grading

The primary parameter utilized to assess grades is attendance. All placing and reasons scores will be recorded throughout the semester, but we mainly grade on completion and overall improvement throughout the course. During the semester, students will meet approximately 27 times. **Students will lose 8 percentage points from their final grade for each unexcused absence.**

Therefore, students with one unexcused absence may still earn an A, whereas students with five unexcused absences will likely receive an E. For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Grading Scale:

A	= 92 – 100 %
A-	= 89 – 91.9%
B+	= 86 – 88.9 %
B	= 82% - 85.9%
B-	= 79% - 81.9%
C+	= 76 – 78.9 %
C	= 72% - 75.9%
C-	= 69% - 71.9%
D	= 60 – 68.9 %
E	= less than 60%

Some lectures will be uploaded on Canvas along with classes to judge. Students are expected to watch the lectures/classes and submit placings via Canvas before we meet in-person to be more efficient with our time. In addition, you will be asked to submit written reasons on Canvas which will be given orally during practice. **Points will be taken off for late submissions up to 4 hours past the deadline.** Anything submitted more than 4 hours past the deadline will be marked as a zero.

Grading Rubric:

Class placing submissions	20pts
Written reasons submissions	20pts
Participation	<u>60pts</u>
Total	100pts

For each unexcused absence, 8 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a

standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being or lacking clear career or academic goals which interfere with their academic performance, are encouraged to utilize the University's support resources. You can utilize the following link to find university wide academic policies and resources available to you: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started>, 352-392-8565) and provide them with appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter. They should share this letter with the instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Fall 2025 TENTATIVE Weekly Schedule

Week 1:	Welcome, review of syllabus, discussion; potentially review halter if time
Week 2:	Give reasons; WP, HUS review and judge
8/25-8/29	Give reasons, review trail and judge multiple classes

8/26	<i>New Student Orientation Tabling @ ANS, 5 – 5:45PM</i>
9/1	<i>Labor Day Holiday - No Class</i>
Week 3:	Give reasons; review ranch riding and reining; judge
9/1-9/5	Give reasons; review HSE and HSM, judge
Week 4:	Give reasons; review western riding, judge, give set in class
9/8-9/12	Give reasons; review trail, judge, give set in class
Week 5:	Give reasons; review trail, judge, give set in class
9/15-9/19	Give reasons; review showmanship, judge, give set in class
Week 6:	Judge HUS/WP, halter, and one scored class; give in class
9/22-9/26	Give two sets of reasons; review hunter hack and judge
Week 7:	Give reasons; HSM, HSE, western riding judging
9/29-10/3	Give reasons; review classes as needed
Week 8:	Review reining and any other classes that need to be brushed up
10/6-10/10	Give reasons on reviewed classes (multiple sets), any extra prep needed
Week 9:	

10/11-10/17 *All-American OH Congress Collegiate Contest, Columbus, OH – dates tentative**

Week 10:	Contest review and feedback; judge a few classes based on feedback
10/20-10/24	
Week 11:	Introduce tie-down and heading classes, score a few runs
10/27-10/31	Judge tie-down and heading, write set and deliver in class
Week 12:	Introduce working cow horse and boxing, score a few runs
11/3-11/7	Give reasons; judge more cow classes
11/11	<i>Veteran's Day Holiday – No Class</i>
Week 13:	Judge many classes, give set in class
11/10-11/14	Class subject TBD, as request by students for review
Week 14:	Mini Mock Contest in class
11/17-11/21	Plan for judging school
11/24-11/29	<i>Thanksgiving Break – No class all week</i>
Week 15:	Any last-minute prep for judging school
12/1-12/3	

12/13 *Judging School at Horse Teaching Unit***

*Travel dates may change by a day or two, but this is best guess as of the beginning of the semester

**One of our primary fundraisers for the judging team, it is expected that you stay and participate