

Foal Handling Practicum

ANS 4231

1 credits

Summer A 2025

Textbook
No Textbook Required

Prerequisites
None.

Class Times
Wednesday
8:30 – 11:30 AM

Location
Equine Sciences Center



Course Description

The aim of this course is to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle foals confidently and effectively while contributing to the development of a well-adapted, healthy, and compliant foal.

Course Objectives

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

1. **Understanding Foal Behavior:** Gain a comprehensive understanding of foal behavior to facilitate effective handling and training.
2. **Desensitization Techniques:** Learn and apply various desensitization techniques to help the foal become accustomed to human touch and interaction, reducing fear and anxiety.
3. **Haltering:** Master the correct and safe method of haltering a foal, ensuring comfort and control without causing distress or harm.
4. **Leading:** Develop skills to effectively lead a foal, promoting trust and cooperation between the handler and the foal.
5. **Desensitizing and Picking Up Feet:** Learn the proper technique to safely and comfortably pick up a foal's feet, an essential skill for future hoof care and farrier work.
6. **Creating a Well-Adapted Foal:** Apply the skills learned in the course to train a well-adapted foal that is comfortable with human interaction and basic handling procedures.
7. **Problem-Solving:** Develop problem-solving skills to address any challenges or issues that may arise during foal handling and training.

Your Professors

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class or by appointment.



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Assignments

Evaluation (tentative)	Percent of Grade
Participation in weekly class meetings at the Equine Sciences Center is expected. The course will meet 1 time per week for 2 ½ hours to train suckling foals.	70%
Blog Posts – Students will keep a training record using short blog posts each week in which they write short self-reflections about their training experiences each week, upload photos and videos of their experiences in the course. 5 to 6 posts minimum. <i>Topics include:</i> Name of foal(s) worked each day, what were the goals for each of the foals during the training session, what foal behaviors were particularly problematic for the student, what training methods were used to resolve behavioral challenges, etc.	30%

Course Policies

- Communication is very important. If you have any questions or problems, please reach out to your instructors as soon as possible.
- Class begins promptly at the designated shift time you select. Students will have points deducted for every 5 minutes that they are late to a scheduled shift.
- **Class grade will be lowered** one letter grade with excessive unexcused absences (>1). Excused absences are consistent with university policy. [See excused absence policy below.](#)
- **Appropriate attire** is required for the safe handling of young horses. This includes long pants, short/long sleeve shirt, closed toed shoes. The most appropriate footwear is a leather boot or shoe that protects the foot and ankle from injury.
- **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 or maternal instincts. 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.

Class Participation

Class attendance and participation is expected. Excused absences are consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation submitted using the Canvas web form (i.e. doctor's note, etc.). **Due to the advance scheduling of this course, missed shifts due to Judging Team travel will not be an acceptable absence in this course.**

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

Excused Absence 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 (1) provide written documentation from an authority (such as a doctor's note, commanding officer, published obituary, etc) and (2) notify Mr. Callaham before the absence. Link to university policy <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext>

Grading Scale

Link to University [Grades and Grading Policy](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/)

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

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

Important Dates

May 14	1 st class meeting
June 18	Last Class Day

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.

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. 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: <https://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 <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-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.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Campus Helping Resources

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

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu.

Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching

- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>