

Mare Care & Foaling

ANS 4231
Section: FOAL

1 credits

Spring 2025

Textbook
No Textbook Required

Prerequisites
None.

Class Times
Flex schedule

Location
Equine Sciences Center



Course Description

The arrival of a new foal is one of the most anticipated moments during the breeding season. This course offers students experiential opportunities to learn about the processes involved in mare care and foaling management that help ensure high value foals are born healthy.

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:

- Gain hands on experience with mare care and foaling.
- Evaluate physical and behavioral signs to help predict when foaling will occur.
- Understand steps in preparing mares for active labor.
- Gain hands on experience with milk and IgG testing.
- Observe mares during foaling and recognize when assistance is warranted.
- Learn skills necessary to assist mares during the foaling process.
- Provide post-natal foal care.

Your Professors

Justin Callaham
459-210E ANS Building
352-294-6754
callaham@ufl.edu
Office Hours:
MWF, 9 – 10 AM



Angela Chandler
Horse Teaching Unit
352-376-0562
angelachandler@ufl.edu
Office Hours:
TR, 2-3 PM



Assignments

Evaluation (tentative)	Percent of Grade
<p>Participation in routine foal watch observations is expected. Students will participate in scheduled foal watch duties every 6 – 10 days (see section on scheduling shifts). Of the many courses at UF, this course requires responsible animal care observations and missing a shift affects the quality of the birth process. The following requirements must be met by the end of term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 15 six-hour foal watch shifts. (100 pts/each) • Attend 1 active foaling that involves an active delivery and post-natal foal care as 1 of the 15 shifts. (100 points) • Participation hours can count toward large animal handling hours for vet school if needed for your application. 	60%
<p>Class Orientations – there will be 3 evening orientations during the semester that will serve as instructional and discussion times. See the list below for dates/times/location.</p> <p>(100 points/each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 16, 2025, 5:45 – 7:00 PM Equine Sciences Center - Ocala • February 27, 2025 5:45 – 7:00 PM Equine Sciences Center – Ocala • April 17, 2025, 5:45-7:00 PM Tentative If Needed 	15%
<p>Assignments & Quizzes</p>	15%
<p>Foal Watch Digital Poster Presentation</p> <p>Students will submit a digital poster presentation using MS Powerpoint to document their participation during their foal watch experience at the Equine Sciences Center. Students will be expected to collect photos and videos that can be included in the poster summary of events.</p>	10%

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 for each unexcused missed shift.** It is very important that you make every effort to attend your assigned foal watch shifts. Both horses and humans are relying on your participation. Excused absences are consistent with university policy. [See excused absence policy below.](#)
- **Shift Swaps.** Inevitably, things happen that may require you to alter your schedule. Shift swaps will be kept to a minimum. **You are allowed 1 shift swap for the semester. It is your responsibility to both find and coordinate any schedule changes.** Shift swaps must be communicated to Angela Chandler and Justin Callaham at least 10 days prior to any changes to the foal watch schedule.
- **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.
- **Transportation** – you are responsible for your own transportation to and from the Equine Sciences Center during the semester. The farm is located approximately 40 minutes south of Gainesville in northern Ocala.

Scheduling Foal Watch Shifts

- This **course uses a non-traditional flexible schedule** meaning you will make 15 appointments during the semester to visit the ESC and complete your 6-hour foal watch shifts.
- **Shift requirements:**
 - 7 shifts must be 6:00 PM – Midnight -AND-
 - 7 shifts must be Midnight – 6 AM
 - You must also spread your shifts out over the entire term.
- **Plan your foal watching shifts accordingly with known exams, travel, and work dates.** Missed shifts will affect your final grade in the course. Unexcused missed shifts will result in the lowering of your grade by +/- letter grade for each unexcused absence.
- **It is your responsibility to make sure you trade your shift with 10 days notice and that someone is willing to swap dates with you.**
- **If your name appears on the calendar, you are expected at the ESC to complete that shift.**

- Remember the more shifts you attend the higher the chance of seeing a mare foal. Mares are very individualistic in their foaling time frames, but they typically foal between 2 – 6 AM.

Joining GroupMe

You will automatically be added to the Foal Watch 2025 GroupMe. GroupMe provides us a way to communicate immediate changes to the spring schedule if needed. The group channel is also a good way to communicate directly with instructors and organize shift swaps.

Class Participation

Class attendance and participation is expected. Excused absences are consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor's note, etc.). **Due to the advance scheduling of this course, missed shifts due to Judging Team, personal travel, religious holidays will not be an acceptable absences in this course. Make sure to schedule around any dates that will affect your attendance.**

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>

Conflicts

At some point during the semester most students will have a conflict with one of their appointments. These scheduling conflicts will be resolved on a case-by-case basis. You will need to reach out to your peers in the class to arrange a shift swap. It is advisable to make requests at least 7 days in advance. *An absence from an appointment will not be excused due to a scheduling conflict. Absences will only be excused with an official note in accordance with university policy.* There will be plenty of students who want to make switches throughout the semester, trust me.

Communication

CANVAS will be the “official” mode of communication during this course. **It is critical that you check your CANVAS notifications or course home page at 5 PM each day you are on shift.** 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.

We *generally do not check email / canvas messages after 5pm or over the weekends*. If you have an emergency and/or desperately need to get a message to the farm after 5pm on a Friday, call/text Angela at **(334) 740-2628**.

Grading Scale	Letter	Percentage
Link to University Grades and Grading Policy https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/	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

January 16	1 st class orientation 5:45 pm @ Equine Sciences Center - Ocala
January 17	Last day of Add/Drop
January 17	Foal Schedule Begins at 6:00 pm
February 27	2 nd Class Orientation ANS 15__ 5:30-6:30 pm
March 16 - 22	Spring Break - Foal Watch Shifts Available this Week
April 17	3 rd Class Discussion Tentative ANS 15__ 5:30-6:30 pm
April 23	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.ua.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.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.ua.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>