

ANS 4605 - Horse Judging

University of Florida

Spring 2025

Instructor/Coach:

Alyssa Ohmstede
231-D Animal Sciences Bldg.
Office: 352.392.1912
E-mail: imatwist@ufl.edu

Textbook

2025 AQHA Rulebook. UF Horse Judging Manual (provided). Additional resources will be provided via Canvas files.

Course Website on Canvas

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

Time & Location

Class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5PM – 7PM. Class will meet in at the Animal Science Building, Room TBA.

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 always expected. **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 generally 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 a fourteen-week semester, students will meet approximately 40 times. **Students will lose 8 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.**

Grading Breakdown:

Class placing submissions	20%
Written reasons submissions	20%
Oral reasons scores	10%
Participation	50%

Note that oral reasons scores just need to show improvement throughout the semester to receive credit. It is not expected that you make a perfect score on an individual set of reasons.

For each unexcused absence, 8 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 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. Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*
- *U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/*
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>*

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, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Spring TENTATIVE Weekly Schedule

1/14	Introduction and Review of Syllabus; Conformation Lecture
1/16	Conformation Review and Introduce Judging Halter; write reasons in class
1/21	Give oral reasons; judge halter class – write reasons
1/23	Give oral reasons; judge halter class – write reasons
1/28	Western Pleasure Lecture; judge WP class – write reasons in class
1/30	Give oral reasons; Hunter Under Saddle Lecture
2/4	Give oral reasons; Working Western Rail Lecture
2/6	Give oral reasons; review judging multiple classes
2/8	FSF Youth Horse Judging Contest, Tampa - MANDATORY
2/11	Give two sets of reasons
2/13	Ranch Riding Lecture; judge, write reasons in class
2/18	Give oral reasons; Reining Lecture
2/20	Judge ranch riding and reining – write reasons in class
2/25	Give oral reasons; Western Horsemanship and Hunt Seat Equitation Lecture
2/27	Give oral reasons; practice judging multiple classes
3/1	4-H/FFA Reasons Workshop, ANS – MANDATORY**
3/4	Showmanship Lecture; judge multiple classes
3/6	Give two sets of reasons
3/11	Hunter Hack Lecture; judge HH and write reasons in class
3/13	Give oral reasons; judge multiple classes
3/16-3/22	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
3/25	Western Trail Lecture; judge multiple classes
3/27	Give oral reasons; judge multiple classes
4/1	Ranch Trail Lecture; judge multiple classes
4/3	Review judging classes for contest – as requested
4/5	4-H/FFA State Horse Judging Contest, HTU – MANDATORY if not traveling to Spring Contest
4/7-4/11*	Traveling for Spring Contest (April 10)
4/15	Debrief from contest; feedback and reflection
4/17	TBA
4/22	TBA

**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 and partially funds team travel, so it is expected that you attend and participate*