

**ANS 4605 Animal and Product Evaluation**  
**Meat Judging**

Spring, 2026  
In-person, 1 credit.

## Instructor

**Thachary Mayer**

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Email for appointment

## Course Description

Advanced training in animal and/or animal products evaluation.

## Course Learning Objectives

- To instill critical thinking and decision-making skills in students via training in animal and products evaluation and participation in intercollegiate competition.
- To improve communication skills and build leadership in students via training in animal and products evaluation and participation in intercollegiate competition.
- To expose students to animal agriculture outside of Florida through travel involved with animal and products evaluation training

## Course Overview and Purpose

ANS 4605- Animal and Products Evaluation is the course title students are enrolled in while receiving advanced training in animal and/or products evaluation as a participant of a competitive education team in the Department of Animal Sciences. To gauge mastery of the skills acquired through this course, students are required to represent the University of Florida in intercollegiate contests.

## Course Prerequisites

None Required. Suggested: ANS2615C Introduction to Livestock and Product Evaluation

## Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

None Required

## 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

Each student’s opportunity to compete on a traveling team will be based on the following criteria, all to be weighed evenly and the instructor will make the final decision:

- 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.

## Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

## Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topic
<b>01: 1/12</b>	Welcome, Review of syllabus and expectations
<b>02: 1/19</b>	Review of Specs
<b>03: 1/26</b>	Review of Beef Grading
<b>04: 2/2</b>	Review of Beef Judging
<b>05: 2/9</b>	Review of Pork Grading
<b>06: 2/16</b>	Review of Pork Judging
<b>07: 2/23</b>	Review of Lamb Grading
<b>08: 3/2</b>	Review of Lamb Judging
<b>09: 3/9</b>	Grading and Judging: Beef
<b>10: 3/16</b>	Grading and Judging: Pork
<b>11: 3/23</b>	Grading and Judging: Lamb
<b>12: 3/30</b>	Grading and Judging: Beef
<b>13: 4/6</b>	Grading and Judging: Pork
<b>14: 4/13</b>	Grading and Judging: Lamb
<b>15: 4/20</b>	Grading and Judging: Beef

## Grading Policy

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.

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

## Course Grading Structure

[Required, methods by which students will be evaluated and their grade determined.]

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Attendance/Participate	600	50%
Judging/Grading	300	25%
Reasons Scores	300	25%
<b>Total</b>	1200	

## Grading Scale

[scale is required; plus and minus grades may be used but are not required]

Grade	Points	Percentage
<b>A</b>	1104+	92-100
<b>A-</b>	1068+	89-91.9
<b>B+</b>	1032+	86-88.9
<b>B</b>	984+	82-85.9
<b>B-</b>	948+	79-81.9
<b>C+</b>	912+	76-78.9
<b>C</b>	864+	72-75.9
<b>C-</b>	828+	69-71.9
<b>D</b>	720+	60-68.9
<b>D-</b>	Less than 708	Less than 60

## Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

## Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

## 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.

## Privacy and Accessibility Policies

[required for online courses, list all technology used]

- Instructure (Canvas)
  - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
  - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
  - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
  - [Zoom Accessibility](#)