

Mare Management Practicum

ANS 4231 Section 07H7

Location: Horse Teaching Unit

Spring 2022

Instructor

Mr. Justin Callaham

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Office Hours: By appointment only.

Course Description

This course will allow students to explore the challenges of commercial mare management with a single goal in mind - Pregnancy. Opportunities will be presented to develop necessary skills and knowledge needed to network with veterinarians or other professionals in order to make cost effective decisions that will be in the best interest of the mare and mare owner.

Considerations Prior to Enrolling

- Can I meet 3 mornings per week during the semester – 8:00 – 9:15 AM?
- Do I have any apprehension about handling large animals?
- Do I have the necessary skills to halter and lead a horse unassisted?
- Do I have regular transportation to the Horse Teaching Unit, 1934 SW 63rd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32608.

Course Schedule

Students are required to attend 3 days per week from 8:00 – 9:15 AM. A Doodle poll will be emailed to aid in getting student schedules set up for the semester. We ask that you provide us with as much availability as possible so that all students can be accommodated. The assigned days will be your assigned days for the semester.

Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Class attendance is expected. Attendance grade is based on simple calculation of points earned divided by total available points. Excused absences are consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation.

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

There will be no make-up days offered in this course. Students should monitor their attendance grade closely. The final grade will be adjusted accordingly at the end of the semester.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Practicum courses offer a hands on approach to skills improvement that is founded on the science of horse production. These courses provide the opportunity to bridge the classroom with practical expectations when applied to living anatomy, physiology, psychology, genetics, and the limitations that are present in actual production models.

The general objectives of this course will provide a basic working foundation that:

- Introduce basic-safe horse handling skills and horsemanship when handling breeding stock – both stallions, mares, and foals.
- Expose students to the day to day breeding procedures of a commercial breeding farm including teasing, mare management, stallion collection, and assisted breeding techniques.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- Review applied anatomy, physiology, behavior, and individual variability of mares.
- Understand the application of exogenous hormones to manage ovulation and pregnancy.
- Master teasing and teasing data as a management tool.
- Develop skills in semen collection, handling, evaluation and artificial insemination.
- Recognize best use of diagnostics such as palpation and ultrasound in breeding decisions.
- Understand differences between breeding practices and medicine – when to call the vet.
- Understand the cost and value of medical treatments to improve conception (Caslick's, lavage, antibiotic treatments, cultures, and biopsies).
- Build confidence in the decision making process to achieve cost effectiveness and success.

Mare Project

Students will be responsible for the full management of 1 mare during the semester. This is a cumulative project over the spring semester in which students must manage the process of achieving pregnancy. A final report must be submitted consisting of the following components:

1. Mare Pedigree and Breeding History Review
2. Mare Teasing and Breeding Record Analysis
3. Histogram of the breeding season based on teasing, normal physiology, hormone therapies, assisted breeding techniques, and diagnostic information.
4. Financial Report...How much did it cost you to manage the mare?
5. Final Project Summary, Presentation, and Management Effort
6. Neatness, effort, & accuracy of information presented in above sections

Professional Development

Practicum courses are meant to help students professionally by reinforcing academic knowledge. This class is primarily a hands on course, but students will need to learn and progress in a manner consistent with the standards of the equine and/or veterinary industries. When handling animals and interacting with the general public, everyone needs to know how to speak and write: correctly, intelligently, and confidently. Ten percent of the course grade is based on how well each student can complete assigned tasks and provide written/verbal answers at a level commensurate of a professional degree.

Grading

Category	% of Grade
Weekly Attendance	60%
Mare Project & Report	20%
Professional Development	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

Percent	Grade
95-100	A
90-94.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
74-76.9	C
70-73.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
64-68.9	D
61-63.9	D-
0-60.9	F

EducationalResources

Samper, Juan C. Equine Breeding Management and Artificial Insemination. 2nd Ed. New York: Elsevier, 2008.

Morel, Mina. Equine Reproductive Physiology, Breeding and Stud Management. 4th Ed. Boston: CABI, 2015.

Injury and Emergency Contact

Students enrolled in this course should provide an emergency contact in the event of serious injury.

Class Demeanor & Dress

Students are expected to arrive on time, wearing appropriate dress, and behave in manner that is respectful. Please avoid the use of cell phones. Appropriate attire is long pants, short/long sleeve shirt, closed toed shoes - preferably made of leather and no dangling jewelry.

University of Florida Counseling Services

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling.
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling.
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling.
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.