

**ANSC 3305**  
**Horse Production and Management**  
TR 8:00-9:15 RAS 130

**Instructor:**

Dr. Rebecca K. Splan

RAS 105

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Office hours: Please email to schedule appointment

**Course Description:** This class will give students an understanding of the principles of scientific horse production and hands-on application of a number of horse management skills. Topics covered in this course include, but are not limited to, genetics, nutrition, reproduction, exercise physiology, health, welfare and commercial aspects of equine enterprises.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Perform pre- and post-partum care of mares and foals,
- 2) Analyze conformation in performance and breeding animals,
- 3) Recognize and describe disorders associated with equine physiology and management,
- 4) Evaluate feeding and management programs for different classes of horses,
- 5) Create a preventative health plan for an equine operation, and
- 6) Design conditioning programs and measure their ability to improve athletic performance.

**Program Learning Outcomes, Department of Animal Science:**

Student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

- 1) Apply livestock management techniques to the care and sustainable management of domestic and captive animals,
- 2) Demonstrate the basic skills of interpreting information gathered in a research setting,
- 3) Apply critical thinking skills to deal with potential challenges in diverse animal sciences and related industries,
- 4) Develop problem solving skills, and
- 5) Demonstrate the ability to communicate through written, spoken, and graphical methods.

No textbooks are required. However, additional required reading materials will be made available on Blackboard and/or distributed in class.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty:** The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. For

more information, please see SRSU guidelines on Student Conduct and Discipline, found in the Student Handbook: [http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student\\_conduct\\_discipline.pdf](http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf)

**Accommodations:** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)

**Absence and Late Assignment Policy:**

It is expected that ALL assignments will be submitted on time. Valid absences include 1) medical emergency (signed note from a medical doctor is required), 2) participation in a SRSU-sanctioned activity (a letter from the faculty advisor is required before the absence), or 3) other emergencies or conflicts that are allowed at Dr. Splan's discretion. Students are expected to make up missed work as quickly as possible.

**Laboratories:** Although this course does not have a separate lab section, several class periods will contain activities held at the equine center. Clothes should be clean when you come to these labs. Do not wear clothes that have been worn around other horses without first laundering them – this includes shoes and boots. Students must wear long pants and close-toed footwear. Students should realize they will be working with and around horses during these times; there are inherent dangers associated with handling large animals and working in an equine environment. Students are required to follow safety procedures and are strongly encouraged to have accident insurance.

**Foaling Project:** Students in this class are given the unique opportunity to follow a late-gestation mare through her pregnancy and foaling, and participate in the early handling of her young foal. Students **are expected to participate in ALL aspects of this project**, including monitoring the mare for signs of foaling, foal-watching, attending the parturition, and some handling of the foal. ***This will require students to contribute what may amount to significant amounts of time outside of class.***

**Assessment and Grading:**

Quizzes (6 @ 20 pts each)  
Exams (3 @100 pts each)  
Written assignments (3 @ 20 pts each)  
Sire Project (50 pts)  
Foaling Report (50 pts)  
Skills Checklist (50 pts)  
Participation in foaling project (50 pts)  
Optional Final (100 pts)

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = below 60%

### Tentative Lecture Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 17	Overview of the horse industry
January 19	Breeds, types, uses
January 24	<b>(QUIZ 1)</b> Gaits and biomechanics
January 26	Lower leg anatomy
January 31	Lameness and treatment
February 2	<b>(QUIZ 2)</b> Lameness and treatment
February 7	Management of the estrous cycle
February 9	Embryo transfer and other reproductive techniques
February 14	<b>(QUIZ 3)</b> Management of pregnancy and parturition
February 16	Neonatal care
February 21	<b>EXAM 1</b>
February 23	Spermatogenesis and semen production
February 28	Stallion collection, handling and behavior
March 2	<b>(QUIZ 4)</b> Genetics of coat color
March 7	Genetic disorders and defects
March 9	Genetics of performance traits
March 14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
March 16	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
March 21	Behavior and welfare
March 23	<b>EXAM 2</b>
March 28	Parasites
March 30	Feeds and feeding for maintenance
April 4	<b>(QUIZ 5)</b> Feeding the growing/breeding horse
April 6	Feeding the performance horse
April 11	Physiological response to exercise
April 13	<b>(QUIZ 6)</b> Measuring fitness and training programs
April 18	Facilities and design
April 20	Facilities and design
April 25	<b>(QUIZ 7)</b> Business topics
April 27	Legal aspects of equine operations
May 2	<b>EXAM 3</b>