

AN132
Horsemanship, Welfare and Ethics
3 Credits

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AN132 Version: 2



Horsemanship, Welfare and Ethics

Calendar Description

This course is an introduction to horse training and livestock handling. Efficient and low-stress handling techniques are presented and demonstrated to promote safety for both the handler and the livestock. Students work with horses and cattle during the lab sessions to gain confidence and proficiency. Along with discussions on the responsibilities of livestock care providers, the topic of animal welfare is introduced and current issues are debated in class. Welfare and ethics discussions focus on production issues, but may also include the recreation, research, draft and companion animal industries.

Rationale

This is a required course for the Animal Science Technology program - Equine Science major for first year students. It is important that students obtain hands-on experience with regards to safe and humane methods of handling livestock. This course is a foundation for advanced courses where training and humane handling of livestock are required.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. demonstrate safe and low-stress restraint and handling of livestock.
2. identify stressors and abnormal behaviour patterns in livestock and implement solutions to alleviate these problems.
3. develop a livestock handling system that incorporates new theories and technologies with relevance to low-stress handling.
4. recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to livestock handling, welfare and ethics, and describe their role in the industry.

5. communicate effectively with different organized groups in animal welfare.
6. recognize and demonstrate the use of different aids in beginning a horse's training.
7. identify the different attitudes in western horsemanship and begin to develop a training system that suits their individual physical and mental capabilities.
8. perform all portions of a horsemanship pattern, including circles, leads, rollbacks, spins, pivots, stops, and backups, all with speed control.
9. introduce project horses to cattle work.
10. feed, bed and care for a horse on a long-term, daily basis.
11. work with other individuals to maintain the stable.

Resource Materials

Required Textbook(s):

Grandin, T., & Deesing, M. (2008). *Humane livestock handling*. North Adams, MA.: Storey Publishing.

National Farm Animal Care Council. (2012). *Codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals*. Retrieved from <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>

Alberta Farm Animal Care. (2013). *Humane handling guidelines*. Retrieved from: <http://www.afac.ab.ca/producer-info>.

Reference Textbook(s):

Grandin, T. (2010). *Improving animal welfare: A practical approach*. Cambridge, MA.: CAB International.

Conduct of Course

The 42 hour lecture portion of this course is delivered in AN133 and this course has its own 56 hours of lab. This lab component is conducted in the Equine Centre and used to further develop practical riding competencies which coincide with the skills required to start colts, handle cattle, competently fit, show or sell horses. Planned seminars, field trips or other activities may occur outside of scheduled class times.

The lab involves individual or group work with assigned livestock to complete required tasks. Basic training of a green horse has a large time component to it. Labs are 4 hours per week with lecture within lab time as required. Students are required to keep a notebook and pen in their locker at the arena for note taking. Students must obtain their instructors permission prior to any unsupervised riding. All working of project horses outside of class time must be done with a buddy system for safety reasons, never advancing past what the instructor has directed. The

Stable Management portion consists of a regular Monday organizational meeting and daily chore times as directed in the handout, "Horse Unit Policies". Any deviation from the chore schedule needs to be approved by the instructor. Alteration of the chore schedule for the group should be done as a group at the Monday meetings.

Lab Requirements:

- I) **Clothing:** Students must wear coveralls in the cattle handling labs. Coveralls are not to be worn in the classrooms. Jeans or riding pants are required in the arena. No sweatpants for riding. Should a student wish to wear a helmet during riding labs they are encouraged to do so.
- II) **Footwear:** Students must wear washable, steel toe, non-slip footwear in the cattle facility labs. Students not wearing proper footwear are not allowed in labs. Dirty footwear must be cleaned and disinfected when leaving farm facilities and when entering livestock barns. Boot washes are available for this and must be utilized. Students not adhering to basic hygiene regulations may be excused from lab participation. Students must wear appropriate riding boots during riding labs. Instructors reserve the right to approve or reject footwear, stirrups, or the combination of both in order to ensure rider safety.
- III) **Extras:** Decorative jewelry and related items must not be worn during labs or at any time while working with livestock. Cell phones are not to be used for personal use during labs.
- IV) **Improper conduct in lab is not tolerated.** Students may be asked to leave at the instructor's discretion.

Evaluation Procedures

Evaluation procedures are outlined below.

Assignments and Projects	25%
Midterm	20%
Lab tests	15%
Final Riding Test	10%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	25% includes both lecture and riding
Stable Management	<u>5%</u>
TOTAL	100%

IMPORTANT

While the weighting of stable management (5%) is relatively low compared to the rest of the course, this should not be taken to be of low priority. Considering that the skill level required to provide nutrition and bedding for a horse and contribute to the condition of the stable is not

difficult, failure to meet requirements in the stable management portion requires withdrawal from this course and the student's horse has to vacate the AST Equine stable. Complete details are provided in the handout, "Horse Unit Policies" which students are required to sign.

Lakeland College is committed to the highest academic standards. Students are expected to be familiar with Lakeland College policies related to academic conduct and academic honesty and to abide by these policies. Violations of these policies are considered to be serious and may result in suspension or expulsion from the College.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Classroom and laboratory attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the students' evaluation as examinations and reports, therefore absenteeism is recorded.

- a. Students having a combination of excused and/or unexcused absence of 20 percent or higher for the scheduled course hours can be required to withdraw and would then automatically receive a "RW" (required withdrawal) for the course, regardless of any other evaluation results. (RW is a failing grade).
- b. An excused absence is one that is verified with your instructor. Verification should be prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence. Verification of the absence may take the form of a note from your doctor/College nurse regarding illness, or a note from another instructor regarding a field trip or other activity, or authorization by your instructor following an in-person meeting. Be sure to contact your instructor and ask what they will require from you as verification for each absence. An unexcused absence is anything NOT verified by the instructor prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence.

NOTE: Any exceptions to the above attendance policy (e.g. timetable conflicts, work-related issues) must be approved in writing by the Department Chair prior to the beginning of the course.

It is the students' responsibility to know their own absentee record.

Normal hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with potential for evening courses, exams or extended field trips. Students are expected to be available for classes during these times.

Course Units/Topics

LECTURE

- Unit I - Safe Handling of Livestock
- Unit II - Animal Behaviour
- Unit III - Low Stress Management
- Unit IV - Managing Animal Movement
- Unit V - Livestock Facilities
- Unit VI - Government Laws and Codes of Practice
- Unit VII - Animal Welfare

LAB

- Unit I - Stable Management Practices and Safety
- Unit II - Horse Psychology
- Unit III - Round Pen and Lunging
- Unit IV - Desensitizing and discipline
- Unit V - Suppling
- Unit VI - Forward motion, stops, backing, rollbacks
- Unit VII - Collection and Extension
- Unit VIII - Speed Control



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