

# **COLLEGE OF SCIENCES**

## **Sam Houston State University**

### **Course Syllabus: Fall 2017**

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology
<b>COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:</b>	EQSC 3340; Equine Behavior and Training I
<b>LOCATION OF CLASS MEETING:</b>	Indoor Arena
<b>LOCATION OF LAB MEETING:</b>	Indoor Arena (unless otherwise notified)
<b>CLASS MEETING TIME:</b>	TR, 1:00 pm to 2:50 pm
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Kalley Fikes, M.S.
<b>OFFICE:</b>	Pirkle 323
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Phone: 979-820-2528 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kkf007@shsu.edu">kkf007@shsu.edu</a> Ag Main Office: 294-1215; Ag Fax: 294-1232
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	By appointment only
<b>GRADUATE ASSISTANT:</b>	Ms. Matlin Sain; <a href="mailto:mas093@shsu.edu">mas093@shsu.edu</a> Ms. Savannah Kirkland; <a href="mailto:sjk022@shsu.edu">sjk022@shsu.edu</a>

#### **Course Description:**

This course focuses on the behavioral management and training of the young horse. Lectures will present information of natural behavior and instincts of horses, responses to external stimuli, means of communication, and the classical learning principles. Laboratories will provide an opportunity for students to apply this information to the behavior modification of their assigned project horse. Laboratories are organized such that students are grouped by their experience levels to work toward similar goals with their project horses in a supervised environment.

**Required Text:** The Principles of Basic Horsemanship, M.L. McMillan and K.R. Hall

**Helmets:** It is departmental policy that anytime a student that is registered in this course and is mounted they **MUST** wear a helmet. This includes riding which is conducted during class, outside of class and after hours.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Identify and explain equine behaviors
- Demonstrate the ability to apply training and behavior modification principles learned in the classroom and laboratory to a project horse
- Correctly use multiple approaches to training a horse and receive similar results

- Understand basic management practices relating to the routine care of horses

### Grading:

• Laboratory and Written Practicals	350 points
• Progress Videos	70
• Stall/Barn/Horse Maintenance	330
• Feeding	50
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	<b>800</b>

### Letter Grades will be determined as follows:

- A = 720-800
- B = 640-719
- C = 560-639
- D = 480-559
- F = 479 or less

### Graded Materials and Examinations

#### Progress Videos (70)

- October 12<sup>th</sup> (35 points)
- November 9<sup>th</sup> (35 points)

#### Laboratory or Written Practicals (350)

This will consist of hands-on demonstrations of the objectives required for each laboratory section. A midterm practical (150) will be given on October 10<sup>th</sup> and the final practical (150) will be on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Practical exams during the semester provide feedback on the progress the student is making towards the objectives. Two farrier quizzes, each worth 20 points, will be given the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>. A thank you letter to the owner/consigner of the horse written in a professional style will be worth 10 points, to be hand delivered at the end of semester showcase on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Stall/Tack/Horse Maintenance (330):

Students will be evaluated throughout the semester for cleanliness of their stall, tack, and the horse assigned to them. They will also be required to assist with routine care and maintenance of facility and school equipment. Horses will also be evaluated for main/tail and coat care. 11 weeks x 30 points/quiz = 330 points

#### Feeding (50):

Throughout the semester, students will be paired and assigned a week to feed and care for horses. The week will begin on Tuesday night (following class) and will end the following Tuesday morning. **This will include weekends and any holidays that may conflict with academic calendar.** Students will be required to notify supervisor of daily feeding and health status of herd. **Feeding must occur between the hours of 6:30 am – 7:30 am and 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. If a student arrives late, 20 – 50 pts (per occurrence) will be deducted from the total grade.**

**Attendance:**

*Departmental attendance policy listed below will be strictly enforced.*

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Department of Agricultural Sciences Attendance Policy:

1. Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Sam Houston State University.
  2. Excused absences must be documented by the student with a letter of confirmation from the sponsoring student organization, professor or doctor. Exemptions will include participation in departmental activities when prior approval is attained from the Department Chair.
  3. No exams or assignments will be given at alternative times unless arrangements are made with the professor/instructor before the scheduled activity occurs.
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**Absences and Missed Work for this Course:**

1. **NO UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCES WILL BE GRANTED.** Attendance will be taken in both lecture and laboratory.
2. There will be no make-up work allowed without an authorized absence. Any missed work or assignments must be completed with the discretion of the instructor or TA within **1 week of absence**.
  - a. If you miss class or lab due to an authorized absence, you must notify the instructor or TA within **24 hours** (preferably *before*) and make up work must be completed within **1 week**. Any assignments missed due to an unauthorized absence results in a grade of **zero**. If extenuating circumstances occur, consult the instructor **immediately**.
  - b. Authorized absences do **not** excuse students from lab assignments. A goal of the laboratory work is to stress the importance of responsibility and arrangements must be made **by YOU** for the proper care of your animal.
  - c. In case of an absence (unauthorized or authorized) care must be arranged for your project animal. A fellow classmate must be contacted **by YOU** to care for your horse.

**\*\*\*\*If greater than 3 absences occur where you fail to arrange alternate care, the privilege to work with the project animal will be terminated and the portion of your grade determined by work with the animal will be recorded as a ZERO!\*\*\*\***

3. Laboratory attendance is **MANDATORY** (excused or un-excused) and is necessary for success. Achievement of the laboratory goals depends on your attendance and the amount of time you spend working with your horse. If you continuously miss lab or waste time during lab it will be impossible to achieve the objectives set for this course.

a. Students will be considered absent if they are not actively working in the arena or ready for class **15 minutes** following the designated start time.

4. **DO NOT** wait until the end of the semester to ask questions regarding graded materials or absences. You have **1 week** to complete missed assignments (**FROM THE DATE THE ASSIGNMENT WAS DUE**) and **1 week** to consult the instructor concerning incorrect grading or mathematical errors in graded work. No corrections will be made to graded work after 1 week of the work being handed out.

5. Lab sections will meet unless cancelled due to inclement weather. Please check your e-mail 15 minutes before class is scheduled to begin if you believe inclement weather is a problem.

#### **Academic Dishonesty (SHSU Academic Policy Statement 810213):**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives 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 which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

#### **Classroom Rules on Conduct (According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook):**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. **Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Should a student get caught texting during lecture they will be asked to leave the classroom, if caught while taking a test, it will be considered cheating and the student will receive a zero (0) for that exam. A student must dismiss themselves from the classroom if they need to receive an incoming or make a call.**

Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

#### **Visitors in the Classroom (According to the Faculty Handbook):**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling 936.294.1720.

**Religious Holidays:**

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day shall be permitted to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams and/or assignments.

**Use of Tobacco and Tobacco Products:**

Sam Houston State University is a tobacco free campus and all tobacco products are prohibited in all buildings and outdoor public areas on campus.

## RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND IDEMNTY AGREEMENT

In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for being allowed entry into and participation in EQSC 3340 Equine Behavior and Training I, Sam Houston State University, and the undersigned hereby enter into this RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (this "agreement") as of the date set forth below.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS:** The undersigned acknowledges there are inherent risks associated with equine activities such as described below, and hereby expressly assumes all risks associated with participating in such activities. The inherent risks include, but are not limited to the propensity of equines to behave in such ways as running, bucking, biting, kicking, shying, stumbling, rearing, falling or stepping on, that may result in an injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; the unpredictability of equine's reaction to such things as sound, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; certain hazards such as surface or subsurface conditions; collisions with other animals; the limited availability of emergency medical care; and the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal, or not acting within such participant's ability.

Student acknowledges that horses, by their very nature are unpredictable and subject to animal whim. Student assumes all risks in connection therewith, and expressly waives any claims for any injury or loss arising there from. Student agrees to abide by and follow Instructor's rules and regulations which, shall be explained on the first day of class. Student further acknowledges that the behavior of any animal is contingent to some extent upon the ability of Student. Student assumes all risks therefore and warrants a full and fair disclosure of Student's abilities has been made to Instructor.

2. **APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE OF RELEASES AND INDEMNITIES:** For purposes of this Agreement, "Claims" shall mean any past, present and future claims, losses, costs, expenses, liabilities, demands, or causes of action, and costs or defense or settlement (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs). The releases, waivers and indemnities contained in this Agreement expressly shall apply regardless of whether the Claims to be released, waived or indemnified against arise, or are alleged to arise, from (i) **NEGLIGENCE (WHETHER SOLE, JOINT OR CONCURRENT), NEGLIGENCE PER SE, and/or STRICT LIABILITY**, of Sam Houston State University, its regents and their respective employees, Dr. Jessica Leatherwood and/or any other person associated with SHSU. (ii) Personal injury, death or property damage.

3. **RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:** The undersigned hereby RELEASES, ACQUITS AND FOREVER DISCHARGES, and WAIVES any and all Claims against any of the Released Parties that arise from or relate to his/her entry and participation in the Activity-**including, but not limited to, the types of claims enumerated in Paragraph 2-** and agrees not to sue any of the Released Parties for such Claims. Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agrees that the Released Parties shall not be liable to him/her, his/her family, or his/her guests, for personal injury, property damage, and any other Claims from or related to the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activity.

4. **AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS:** The undersigned agrees to IDEMNIFY and HOLD HARMLESS the Released Parties against any and all Claims arising from or related to the undersigned's entry and participation in the Activity- **including, but not limited to, the types of Claims enumerated in Paragraph 2.** In addition, and without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agrees to INDEMNIFY the Released Parties for any Claims for injuries to any minors under his/her care and control and/or his/her parent/guardian, and for any Claims asserted by, through or under the undersigned, arising from or related to the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activity- **including, but not limited to, the types of Claims enumerated in Paragraph 2.** As used herein, "INDEMNIFY" means to agree to assume the Released Parties' liability in a situation, thereby relieving them of responsibility, and/or reimbursing the Released Party for Claims asserted against them.

As further inducement to Sam Houston State University, tis regents and their respective employees, and Dr. Jessica Leatherwood to permit the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activity, the undersigned represents that he/she thoroughly and completely understands that this is a complete and final release and indemnity agreement, that he/she is freely and voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises or statements made by and Released Party, or any agent, attorney or other representative of any Released Party has influenced the undersigned in causing him/her to sign this Agreement.

The undersigned understands that this Agreement shall be binding on his/her heirs, executors, successors and assigns, that the Agreement will be governed by the laws of Texas, and that jurisdiction and venue for resolution of any dispute regarding this Agreement shall lie in a Texas State Court in Walker County, Texas. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it does not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement. The undersigned has read and understands the Agreement, and agrees to the terms and conditions above, and acknowledges receipt of this Agreement.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_