DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
Spring Semester 2012
TR 3:00-4:50
ANSC 316

Equine Selection and Judging. Credit: 2

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Student Assistance from member of the senior judging team

Description:

Detailed evaluation and comparison of horses; selection and critique of athleticism and performance in horses; industry trends addressed; oral and written defense of judgments also explained and expected of student.

Learning Objectives: Upon taking this course the student will be able to . . .

- describe components of athletic performance in horses, methods of evaluation, and importance of those components by participation in lectures, demonstrations and reading resource material.
- demonstrate the use of visual appraisal to evaluate horses. Therefore, the student will be able to distinguish between correct and incorrect conformation and performance in the horse industry.
- prepare written and oral defense of reasoning regarding a ranking of horses. Students will be given a set or terms and expected to practice in order to gain more comprehension of correct horse industry terminology and improved confidence concerning public speaking.
- identify the major factors that constitute desirable performance in horses after discussion of rules and industry demands on performance.
- identify the value and limitations of showing and other records in evaluating horses for breeding and other purposes.
- engage in the opportunity to be a competitive member of the TAMU Horse Judging Team by developing critical thinking skills if they so desire

Because this course is categorized as a “C” course, you will have opportunities to write about assigned topics related to judging and selection of various performance horse events. Additionally, you will prepare multiple oral assignments in which you will properly and professionally state your reasons for placing conformation and performance
horses. As you progress through the class this will get easier and your proficiency will increase through practice, repetition and informative feedback.

Policy on absences and missed work:

1. There are no unauthorized absences granted!

2. Authorized absence does not excuse students from any course work.

3. Permission for making up any missed work will be granted only for authorized absences arranged in advance of the absence, or in case of sickness, injury, or death in family. In those cases, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the professor as soon as possible. In the case of absence due to sickness, the student must present verification of the illness from the University Health Center or family doctor.

4. Work missed due to unauthorized absence will not be made up, and grade of zero (0) will be recorded. Also, work not made up due to authorized absence will receive a grade of zero (0).

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1**
Introduction, objectives, outline prerequisites, grading, references, reasons and organization.

**Week 2-3**
Conformation and halter judging.

**Week 4-8**
Judging western pleasure, hunter-under-saddle, western riding and reining horses.

**MIDTERM EXAM:** Thursday, March 8

**Week 9-13**
Judging other performance events including hunter hack, showmanship, horsemanship, equitation, trail, cutting, working cowhorse, roping, and working hunter.

**Week 14**
“Mini-contest”

**FINAL EXAM:** Tuesday, May 8; 1-3 P.M.
References:

Required book: *Equine Judging and Selection* by Cavinder et al. available at Notes and Quotes; 701 W. University

Supplied book: AQHA handbook

Website: aggiehorsejudging.tamu.edu

Grade determination:

- Exams: 30% (100 points / exam = 200 points possible)
- Placing scores on judged classes: 20% (50 points possible / assignment = approximately 1,000 points)
- Written and Oral scores: 50% (50 points possible / assignment = 500 points)

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- 90-100%  A
- 80-89.9%  B
- 70-79.9%  C
- 60-69.9%  D
- Below 60%  F

Writing assignments:

*critiqued: these assignments will be written by the student and then critiqued either by the professor, individual peer, or in a group setting. Upon feedback, the student will have the opportunity to revise the document before submission for final grading. The writing assignment topics will include descriptive performance evaluations of horses that the student has watched and placed accordingly.

Oral assignments:

*these assignments will be given in a formal presentation (with a 2 minute time limit: expected to be approximately 1:35-1:45) with the student presenting to 1 instructor. Writing assignments are expected to aid the student in preparing oral presentations in order to enhance diction and confidence in oral presentations. The topics of these oral presentations will be the same as the written assignments. You will receive a graded rubric for each assignment to provide additional feedback and support for your improvement throughout the course. *Because this is a C designated course, you must earn a passing % (60%) on the oral assignments in order to pass the entire course.*
Semester Lecture Series

January:
17- Lecture: introductions, scoring and cuts, guidelines for developing written and oral assignments, Conformation
19- Lecture: Conformation (practice writing assignment)
24- Halter classes (critiqued writing assignment for a grade) Freeman
26- Halter class (oral assignment) Freeman
31- Lecture Western Pleasure

February:
2- Western Pleasure (critiqued peer writing assignment for grade)
7- Western Pleasure (oral assignment) Freeman
9- Lecture: Hunter Under Saddle
14- HUS (critiqued writing assignment for a grade)
16- HUS (oral assignment) Freeman
22- Lecture: Reining
23- Reining (critiqued peer writing assignment for a grade)
28- Reining (oral assignment) Freeman

March:
1- Lecture: trail
6- Lecture: Western Riding
8- Midterm exam
20- Trail and Western Riding classes (oral assignment)
22- Lecture: Hunter Hack
27- Hunter Hack classes (critiqued writing assignment for a grade) Freeman
29- Lecture: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Equitation

April:
3- Showmanship, WH, HSE: Freeman
5- Lecture: Working Hunter, Pleasure Driving
10- Lecture: Cutting
12- Lecture: Working Cowhorse
17- Cowhorse class: Freeman
19- Lecture: Roping
24- Roping classes
26- “Mini-contest”

May:
8- Final exam
Faculty Senate Policy:

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. “Handouts” mean all materials generated for this class, which includes but is not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless permission is expressly granted.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writing, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University student rules, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty.”

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Bldg., or call 845-1637.

Aggie Code of Honor

“An aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those that do.” The Office of the Aggie Honor System provides resources to students and faculty to help uphold this Honor Code, including definitions for academic dishonesty and plagiarism. These resources, as well as information about the Office of the Aggie Honor System, can be found at http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/. It is every person’s responsibility; students and faculty alike, to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty, prevent it from happening, and promote honesty and integrity fitting for Texas A&M University. Take the time to explore the website and become familiar with the resources available.