



## Equine Learning Theory

Syllabus 2024-SP

01/08/2024-02/26/2024

### Course Information

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**Course Title:** Equine Learning Theory

**Course Number:** ANS 4218 - 10

**Credit Hours:** 3.0

**Class Location:** Vintage Farm Campus

**Meeting Days and Times:** Mondays A Term 2:00 pm - 4:45 pm

**Course Meeting Dates:** Every Monday from Jan. 8 through Feb. 26, 2024 (EXCEPT FOR JAN. 15 HOLIDAY) Please see Modules.

### Instructor Information

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**Name:** Marie Davidson

**Office Location:** Ocala 9 - 102 OR Vintage Farm Vet Center

**Telephone Number:** 1-352-854-2322

**Extension:** 1424

**Email:** [davidsom@cf.edu](mailto:davidsom@cf.edu)

**Office Hours and Location**

Mondays 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Vintage

Tuesdays 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm Vintage

Wednesdays 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Vintage

Thursdays 11:00 am to 2:30 pm Ocala

### Optional Instructor Message / Welcome Video

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Welcome to Equine Learning Theory! In this class you will have a chance to not only study how horses learn, you will be applying that knowledge to a horse of your choosing. I look forward to working with all of you!

### Extended Emergency Closure

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For emergency campus closings (natural disasters, etc.) call 352-291-4499 or 800-831-9244 or check our website (CF.edu).

### Course Description

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Effective equine management requires a detailed understanding of how equids learn and how to facilitate and modify behavior. This course focuses on operant conditioning techniques to prepare horses for successful learning. The course also deals with detaining unwanted behaviors and evaluating mental reasons for poor performance.

**Course Prerequisites:** ANS 1238C

### Additional Course Information

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**Horse Handling Attire:** When attending classes at Vintage Farm, students should wear clothing and footwear that is appropriate for handling horses. This includes hard soled, closed shoes, long pants and a shirt with sleeves. Clothing should be fitted well so that nothing can become entangled with a horse. Hair should also be pulled back or secured when working with the horses. Please do not wear large or loose jewelry or long nails to the stable. Students who are not properly attired for stable activities will not be able to participate and will need to complete the make-up assignment.

### **Expectations**

**Students will:**

1. Attend class, study materials provided online, complete homework assignments on time and take responsibility for learning about topics presented in this class. The instructor is always available to re-explain concepts taught in class and to help ensure student success in this course. We also have an equine tutor available at the Learning Resource Center on the Ocala campus and instructional assistants available by appointment at the Vintage Farm for practice with the horses.

### Classroom Statement

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As a registered student in this class, you assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that contributes positively to CF's learning community as described in the Student Code of Conduct. This class may require participation in discussion to meet course-learning outcomes. We are a class comprised of individuals. As such, there will be multiple opinions expressed throughout the semester that you may not personally agree with or even understand - as may be expected. My role as an instructor is to facilitate freedom of expression that is relevant to the course, credible, open and respectful without the promotion or endorsement of a single viewpoint. Conversations informed by diverse viewpoints contribute to critical thinking and higher-level learning. Even if you don't agree, listening to different points of view may give you further insight into your own perspectives. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief in a concept. Concepts as presented are not endorsed by the instructor but are presented as part of the larger course of instruction. Should a student feel uncomfortable with how course content is presented or discussed, please contact the instructor for further conversation.

### Required Textbook

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**Title: Equitation Science**

**Author:** Paul McGreevy, Andrew McLean

**Edition:** 2nd preferred,

**ISBN:** 9781119241416

## Course Objectives

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Outcome #1: Identify trends in equine industry...linked to ILO #1 below.

Outcome #2 Demonstrate equine specific professional skills...linked to ILO #2 below.

In this course, students will pursue a deeper understanding of operant conditioning and other models of equine learning, as well as apply different learning methods to live horses. Class topics include:

- Operant conditioning, including an extensive discussion of positive and negative reinforcement
- Classical conditioning, including practical work with clicker training
- Other learning styles (latent, habituation, mimicry)
- Equine memory and residual learning
- How age affects equine learning
- Physical limitations or disruptions to equine learning

The final project will include evaluating a horse for training, planning and executing the process, documenting progress and sharing the project with classmates.

## Institutional Learning Outcomes

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This list offers you a consistent way to see the CF institutional learning outcomes that are relevant to this course. This is for information purposes only and does not change the grading system used in this class. Only those learning outcomes relevant to this course are included below.

### Critical Reasoning

**Baccalaureate Level:** Students will construct, analyze, evaluate, and justify critical thinking skills to solve problems and demonstrate decision-making competencies.

**ILO 1.1** Accurately interpret evidence, statements, graphics, questions, etc.

Measured through multiple quizzes, homework, and final project presentation

## **Communications**

**Baccalaureate Level:** Students will be able to formulate, demonstrate, and critique effective written and oral communication skills.

**ILO 2.4** Express clear, well-organized ideas through appropriate communication. problem.

Measured through multiple quizzes, homework, and final project presentation

## **Assessment**

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**For the complete grading scale, see the current CF catalog.**

**Components of the Grade:** Equine Students should review the Assignments Page in your Canvas Course for details on components of the grade for this class.

**Attendance:** Equine students are required to attend all class meetings and participate in all online materials provided. Attendance will be recorded and points will be given as part of your grade in this class. Non-attendance does not constitute withdrawal from this course. It is your responsibility to complete the withdrawal forms by the appropriate date. Attendance accounts for 10% of your final grade.

**Participation:** Equine students are expected to participate in all online materials provided, classroom materials, activities, and assignments. It is also expected that all assignments, quizzes, and exams will be completed by the due date given. Students are expected to communicate with the instructor when they have questions, or if concerns arise via office hours, canvas messaging, or through scheduled zoom meetings or appointments. All communication with the professor and other students must be completed in a professional manner. Your participation grade points will be included with your attendance grade. Field Trips are a part of your Assignments and also count toward your Participation/Attendance Grade.

**Make-up policy:** In all Equine Classes, students are permitted a single make-up quiz/exam per course provided the make-up exam is scheduled and taken within 7 days of the initial quiz date. Students are required to contact the instructor to request and schedule the make-up exam. An automatic 10% penalty is applied to all make-up exams. No late final exams or final projects will be accepted.

**Late Submissions:** Equine students will receive a 20 % penalty on all late assignments, projects, homework, etc. unless arrangements are made with the instructor prior to the due date. In the case of an emergency, proof of the emergency may be requested. While you do not need to disclose personal details, let your instructor know as soon as possible if something is preventing you from participating online or completing work. We will make every effort to assist you. Extenuating circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

**Extra Credit:** Equine students may earn up to 5 points added to the final course grade average by volunteering 8 hours at an approved equine event. All approved events will be posted on the Equine Facebook page. A volunteer form, signed by the volunteer coordinator for the event, must be submitted no later than the last regular class day prior to the final exam to receive credit. Always check with your instructor to make sure the activity is approved for the class in which you wish to receive extra credit. Forms are

available from your instructor and are posted on your Modules Page for this class. Additional extra credit opportunities may be approved by your instructor.

**Professionalism:** Equine students should note that in all communication whether it be by telephone, email, text, Canvas messaging or face to face, everyone is expected to conduct themselves as a professional. This includes all communication inside or outside of class with instructors, advisors, staff, other students, guest speakers and other industry professionals. Please do not engage in “text lingo” or unstructured emails with your instructors. You should always communicate in complete sentences with proper spelling and grammar and address your instructor as Dr. or Professor as appropriate. Using proper letter format in communication is always appropriate and usually ensures that all necessary information is being sent to your instructor. All college communication should be done through Canvas messaging or the CF email system unless you have an emergency.

Professionalism also includes wearing appropriate clothing for the situation. Remember you are representing the college when you attend field trips and labs. You are also meeting potential employers in these situations. As they say, “You don’t get a second chance to make a first impression!” Don’t miss out on these networking opportunities.

## Proctoring

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This course requires \_\_0\_\_ [#] proctored assessment(s). Assessments are proctored online through Honorlock or at a CF Testing location. If you plan to take a proctored exam online, you will be required to have a computer with Google Chrome, webcam and microphone, as student identity must be verified on proctored assessments.

## Grading Scale

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A	90-100%
B+	87-89%
B	80-86%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D	60-69%

F Below 60%

## Course Schedule/Outline

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Week & Meeting Date	Preparation, Activities and Evaluation	Date Due	Points
Week 1 - Jan. 8 At Vintage Farm	QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, EVALUATION FOR TRAINING – prep for successful learning, effects of age, physical limitations  Lab Assignment #1 and Homework #1	Jan. 14	100
Week 2 - Jan. 15 ONLINE ONLY!!!	EQUINE BRAIN, LEARNING THEORY, AND MEMORY – overview of training, "detraining", facilitate and modify behavior and residual learning  Homework #2	Jan. 21	50
Week 3 - Jan. 22 At Vintage Farm	GUEST SPEAKER/DEMO & PRACTICE - application of learning theory including clicker training, classical conditioning, and operant conditioning  Lab Assignment #2  ONLINE QUIZ #1	Jan. 28	150
Week 4 - Jan. 29 At Vintage Farm	MODERN METHODS – parelli's 7 games, classical eq, other approaches  Lab Assignment #3 & Homework #3	Feb. 4	100
Week 5 - Feb. 5 Location tbd	FIELD TRIP/GUEST LECTURE  Homework #4	Feb. 11	50
Week 6 - Feb. 12	COMMONALITIES AND CUSTOMIZATION –  Lab Assignment #6	Feb. 18	150



At Vintage Farm	ONLINE QUIZ #2		
Week 7 - Feb. 19 At Vintage Farm	IN CLASS REVIEW ACTIVITY & EXTRA CREDIT Attendance and Extra Credit Due	Feb.25	150
Week 8 - Feb. 26 At Vintage Farm	TRAINING PROJECT PRESENTATIONS Final Project Presentations Due in Class CUMMULATIVE ONLINE FINAL EXAM DUE Feb. 26 11:59 pm	Feb. 26	200

## Unforeseen Circumstances

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Due to unforeseen happenings, it may be necessary for the course assignment schedule to be altered. I will always strive to be fair about any changes.

## College Policies

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College policies can be found at <https://cf.instructure.com/courses/1482304>

## Equity Statement

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College of Central Florida offers equal access and opportunity in employment, admissions and educational activities. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, pregnancy, age, marital status, national origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or disability status in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. Recognizing that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex and violates this policy

statement, the college will not tolerate such conduct. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Mary Ann Begley, Title IX Coordinator, Ocala Campus, Building 3, Room 116, 3001 S.W. College Road, 352-291-4410, or [Equity@cf.edu](mailto:Equity@cf.edu).