

Syllabus

Equine Anatomy and Health Considerations

Introduction:

This is a beginning course in equine anatomy that will be of interest to horse owners, trainers, 4H or FFA students, veterinary technicians, and individuals involved with the care and development of the horse. It will cover:

- Surface anatomy and common descriptive terms
- Muscular and skeletal structure
- Basic elements of conformation evaluation
- Basics of nervous system, digestive system, circulatory system
- Teeth and Hooves
- Basic health parameters and warning signs
- Common injuries and illnesses

Course Duration:

- Independent Study – must be started within 3 months of sign-up and completed within 12 months. There will be no tuition refunds. If a student desires to drop the course within the first 30 days, they may be eligible to receive a 50% refund upon written request. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of Avalon Performance Horse and Rider Support upon request by the student.

Assignments, Tests, and Grading:

- The course is divided into five sections. Within each section are one to three quizzes.
- You do not need to have access to horses to take this course, but your experience will be enriched if you can visit them and study the resources with a horse in front of you.
- Each quiz must be passed with a score of 70% or better in order to proceed to the next work assignment. By the end of the course, section quiz scores will be averaged to arrive at a final course grade of **A** ($\geq 90\%$), **B** ($\geq 80\%$), **C** ($\geq 70\%$), or **Incomplete** (meaning not all sections were passed within 12 months) Your course grade will be given as a percentage.
- A student with an incomplete may re-take the course by re-registering and paying for the course.

Estimated Time Commitment and Equivalence to Credit Hours

This course contains five sections with an estimated time commitment of 60 hours of study and exercises plus quizzes for a total time commitment of 75 hours, equivalent to 7.5 CEUs or 4 Semester Credit Hours.

Required Textbooks Additional Resources:

1. Higgins, Gillian and Stephanie Martin. Horse Anatomy for Performance. 2012
2. Raynor, Maggie. The Horse Anatomy Workbook. 2006
3. Smith Thomas, Heather. The Horse Conformation Handbook. 2005
4. Online handouts, photos, articles, and web links

Course Objectives:

1. Upon completion of the course, the student will have developed sufficient familiarity with equine anatomy to be able to identify surface anatomical features as well as the major skeletal, muscular, circulatory, digestive and nervous system elements.
2. The student will have been introduced to some of the commonly seen injuries in horses, as well as common neurologic and metabolic diseases and conditions.
3. The student will have been introduced to information on vital signs in the horse and identification of health warning signs.

Course Contents

Section 1:

Surface Anatomy

Descriptive Terms

Conformation

Quiz 1.1 – Anatomy and Medical Terminology

Quiz 1.2 – Section Summary

Section 2:

Skeletal System

Teeth and Age of the Horse

Hooves

Quiz 2.1 – Skeletal Structure

Quiz 2.2 – Hooves

Quiz 2.3 – Section Summary

Section 3:

Muscular System – Major Muscles
Fascia and Connective Tissue
Common Injuries and Lameness
Quiz 3.1 – Muscular System
Quiz 3.2 – Section Summary

Section 4:

Nervous System
Circulatory System
Common Ailments of the Nervous and Circulatory System
Quiz 4.1 – Nervous and Circulatory System
Quiz 4.2 – Section Summary

Section 5:

Digestive System
Common Equine Health Issues
Quiz 5.1 – Digestion and Common Health Issues
Quiz 5.2 – Section Summary