

## **Syllabus**

### **Recognizing Issues That Affect Performance Horses**

#### **Required Books:**

- **Equine Lameness for the Layman** by G. Robert Grisel, DVM, 2018
- **The Essential Hoof Book** by Cline and Kauffmann, 2017
- **Dental Anatomy** by Edwards and Poss, 2012
- **Suffering in Silence** by Jochen Schlee, 2013

#### **Note on textbooks:**

Some of the best available books are written by people who also are involved in the development of products for sale. It is not the intent of Avalon Performance Horse and Rider Support to endorse any particular methodology, technique, or equipment but rather to seek the best available printed information for educational purposes. We do not endorse saddles or make recommendations for shoeing or not, but feel that the information presented in these books is of a very high quality and worthy of study.

#### **Introduction:**

This is an intermediate level course that will guide the student beyond a basic understanding of anatomy and movement, to learn more about issues that may affect the ability of the performance horse to be comfortable in its job. Our course [Equine Anatomy and Health Considerations](#) introduced the student to the structure, physiology, health parameters and some of the diseases that may be encountered in the performance horse. The next course, [Basic Biomechanics – Understanding Horse Movement](#) then introduced the student to how horses move in nature, the gaits, and how they can be developed when ridden to work with their structure and balance.

This course will add to that prior body of knowledge with:

1. Numerous short videos to help the student visualize lameness originating in different parts of the body.
2. Anatomy and biomechanics review
3. Detailed information and videos on hoof and dental issues
4. In depth information and videos on saddle fit and its effect on the comfort and structural health of the horse

#### **Course Duration:**

This is a self-paced independent study course. It 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

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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. Each section has a quiz at the end.
- You do not need to have access to horses to take this course, but your experience will be enriched if you can observe them in action.
- 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) The 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 75 hours of study and exercises plus quizzes for a total time commitment of 90 hours, equivalent to 9.0 CEUs or 5 credit hours.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Upon completion of the course, the student will have been exposed to numerous lameness videos with commentary by a renowned performance horse veterinarian.
2. The student will have been exposed to a methodology that can help to identify the source and possible severity of lameness to aid in understanding when to call the vet.
3. The student will have gained familiarity with the most common issues affecting the hooves, teeth, and the possible impacts to performance when they are not properly managed.
4. The student will have been exposed to theories of saddle fit from two highly regarded professionals in the performance saddle industry.

#### **Course content:**

##### **Section 1 – Equine Lameness Identification**

Reading Assignment:

**Equine Lameness for the Layman** – Introduction, Glossary, Section I, II and III

Section 1 Learning Activity

Section 1 Quiz

##### **Section 2 – Anatomy Review and Gait Observations**

Reading Assignment:

**Equine Lameness for the Layman** – Section IV, Chapter 22, 23, 24, 27

Section 2 Learning Activity

Section 2 Quiz

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**Section 3 – Understanding the Teeth**

Reading Assignment:

**Dental Anatomy Pocket Guide** – entire book

Section 3 Learning Activity

Section 3 Quiz

**Section 4 – Understanding the Hoof**

Reading Assignment:

**The Essential Hoof** – Chapters 6-8 and 11-14

Section 4 Learning Activity

Section 4 Quiz

**Section 5 – Understanding the Saddle**

Reading Assignment:

**Suffering in Silence** – read entire book

Section 5 Learning Activity

Section 5 Quiz