ANSCI 298F: Equine Management  
Spring 2015

**Course Description**
This course provides practical hands-on experience managing the university reproduction horse herd. Scientifically-based principles of equine management will be covered, including safety of horse and handler, advanced nutrition and health management of equine life stages, equine business applications, breeding management, and participation in foaling. Students will have the opportunity to work with all life stages of horses, from foals to breeding stallions. 2 credits, Graded.

**Course Meetings**
Time to be announced (meet 1x/week 2 hour block)  
Off Campus/Hadley Farm Equine Center  
Transportation provided via Stockbridge School shuttle or student carpooling

**Instructor**
Dr. Cassandra Uricchio  
curicchio@umass.edu  
Cell: (413) 345-0183  
Office: Hadley Farm Manor House, 2nd Floor

**Assignments & Grading**
- 20% Management Team Presentations & Written Records
- 10% Midterm Exam
- 15% Final Exam
- 10% Equine Life Stage Protocols
- 35% Practicum Participation
- 10% Livestock Classic Participation

**Attendance & Punctuality Policy**
Attendance is mandatory and an important part of your overall course grade. Excused absences are only allowed in the case of a medical problem (doctor’s note required) or family death. However, you must contact Dr. Uricchio within 48 hours of the absence to receive instructions about completing any missed assignments or exams. Punctuality is also important so that you understand the information and directions to safely perform the practicum activity. Therefore, every 2 tardies will be counted as an unexcused absence.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Foal watch and weekend chores are also an expected part of your practicum participation in the class. Student teams will be assigned a horse for the semester and you are responsible for its care. Preparation and participation in foaling and follow-up neonatal care is also a mandatory part of the course.

**Practicum Participation**
Each student team will be assigned an UMass horse to manage for the semester. It is your responsibility to oversee their care and keep accurate records including daily care logs, medical records, body condition tracking, workload/pregnancy log, and lease/donation contracts if applicable. In addition, you all must work together to make the Hadley Farm Equine Center a successful entity by developing and revising equine best management practices, management protocols, and facility improvements. 30% of the course will be based on an assessment of your participation, including:
- Technical ability & skills
- Work ethic
- Positive attitude
- Professional appearance
Teamwork & leadership
Constructive input during discussions

Punctuality & attendance

Additional Class Policies

Communication
We will be using the university emails (@umass.edu) and Moodle for course-related communication. Therefore, it is important that you check both regularly for class announcements and required class material.

Use of Electronics
Laptops/tablets are provisionally allowed in lecture so long as the use of such devices pertains directly to the course. Internet use, such as emailing, shopping, updating social media, etc. is distracting to others and WILL NOT BE TOLERATED in Equine Management.

Cell phones are NOT ALLOWED in lecture or in the horse barn. Cell phone calls & texts disrupt the class and are disrespectful to your classmates & instructors.

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is an expectation of all college students. Consequences of academic dishonesty are serious and include expulsion. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. For more information: http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/code_conduct/acad_honest.htm

Academic Accommodations
Many accommodations are available at the University of Massachusetts to ensure that students with disabilities participate fully in academic and student life. Students are responsible for contacting Disability Services at the beginning of each semester so that reasonable accommodations can be made in a timely manner (first two weeks of classes). For more information, visit: http://www.umass.edu/disability/students.html

Health & Human Safety
For safety and professionalism, all students must abide by the equine dress code as follows:
- Shirt with sleeves and appropriate writing or graphics (no tank tops or revealing/low-cut shirts). No hooded sweatshirts.
- Pants with belt preferred (no shorts, ripped jeans, or extreme low rise).
- Sturdy boots (no sneakers, flip flops, heels, open-toed shoes, or ugggs).
- ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet (for working with stallions) – you may bring your own or borrow a helmet from the barn.
- Gloves required (riding gloves or leather work gloves).

If you have a compromised immune system, are pregnant, or likely to become pregnant, we ask that you stay out of the barn for safety/health reasons.
A "horse buddy" is required whenever you interact with the horses. Animal behavior can be unpredictable; therefore horse barn policy requires that another student or staff member be present in the event of injury or accident.

Any student under the suspected influence of medications, drugs or alcohol will NOT be allowed to handle any horses. This is entirely under the discretion of the instructor.

**Animal Care Training**

The Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals require that Institutions ensure that all personnel caring for, treating or using animals are qualified to perform their duties. All UMass Amherst animal users, including students in Equine Management, are required to attend a one-time general training course prior to working with animals. If you previously attended a training session at UMass, you will not need to do so again.

**Students found to be in violation of any of the aforementioned rules will be asked to leave the premises.**

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

- **Week 1:** Introduction to Hadley Farm Equine Center; Weekly Routines/Record Keeping
  - Practicum: Human & Horse Safety Training
- **Week 2:** Equine Life Stages – from Foals to Senior Horses
  - Practicum: Foal & Stallion Handling
- **Week 3:** Basic Equine Nutrition: What is the Real Value of Your Hay?
  - Practicum: Forage ID & Analysis
- **Week 4:** Horse Vitals, Basic First Aid, & When to Call the Vet
  - Practicum: Body Condition Scoring & Taking Vitals
- **Week 5:** Herd Health – AAEP Guidelines
  - Practicum: Fecal Flotations
- **Week 6:** Midterm Exam (Written & Practical)
- **Week 7:** Herd Health – AAEP Guidelines
  - Practicum: Vaccines
- **Week 8:** Equine Breeding Operations: Broodmare & Stallion BMPs
  - Practicum: Sire Selection Case Studies
- **Week 9:** Life Stage Management: Lactation & Growth BMPs
  - Practicum: Energy Balance Case Studies
- **Week 10:** Parturition & Foal Watch SOP
  - Practicum: Calcium Testing & Mare Prep
- **Week 11:** Equine Life Stage Protocols Due
  - Practicum: Livestock Classic Preparations
- **Week 12:** Final Exam (Written & Practical)
- **Week 13:** Management Team Presentations & Final Records Due