**Reedley College Animal Science Program**

**Course Syllabus and Schedule**

**Spring Semester 2022**

Class Name & Number: AS 26 Western Riding & Horsemanship

Units: 2.0 (1.5-hour lecture, 1.5-hour lab)

Instructor Information: Bodi Dodds bodi.dodds@reedleycollege.edu

**Class Meetings**:

Monday 6:00 - 6:50 pm lecture, 7:00 - 9:50 pm laboratory at the Animal Science Pavilion.

**Holidays:**

Holidays will be observed as per the State Center Community College District.

**Drop Deadline:**

January 21nd, last day to drop this class for a full refund. January 28th, last day to drop this

class to avoid a ‘W’ on transcripts. March 11th, last day for any student to drop this course. After

March 11th, the student must receive a grade.

**Final Exam:**

Monday, May 16th, 6:00 pm

**Textbook & Other Course Materials:**

No textbook is required for this class. Students are required to review various websites and

articles pertaining to the class. Riding attire is required to be able to ride in this class. Closed

toed boots and jeans are required, any students not dressed appropriately will be asked to

change or sit out.

Grading Policy:

Writing assignments, homework, lab participation, class participation, quizzes, exams, and lab

reports.

**Grading Scale:**

A= 90-100%, B= 80-89%, C=70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= < 59%

The final grade will be determined by 20% class assignments and exams, 20% final exam and

60% laboratory activity, participation, and lab reports. There will be no make-up of any

missed quizzes, exams and assignments or lab activities.

**Attendance Requirements:**

Attendance is required since most of the learning occurs in the lecture/lab activities.

- Students are responsible for obtaining the notes and information missed due to an

absence from the instructor or fellow student.

- College policy dictates that an instructor should drop a student with two consecutive

weeks of unexpected absence.

- At the end of the ninth week of instruction no withdrawals are permitted and a student

must receive a grade.

- Please refer to your email inbox and canvas regularly to be notified of any cancelled

class.

**Behavioral Standards:**

All students are expected to act in a mature, responsible manner that respects the rights of all

students, instructors, staff, and guests of Reedley College. All cellphones and other electronic

devices must be turned off and put away during lecture and lab.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

In compliance with SCCCD board policy 5410, each student is expected to extend an entirely

honest effort toward attaining an education. Violations of this policy will result in disqualification

for the course.

**Accommodation for Students:**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in an alternate media

(i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) or

section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Course Description:

Introduction to western riding, saddling, grooming, and bridling. Students will acquire basic

knowledge of equipment and safety procedures. Course topics include use of riding aids and

transitions pertaining to western disciplines. ADVISORIES: English 125 and English 126. (A,

CSU, UC)

**Student Learning outcomes:**

SLO1: Demonstrate proper safety precautions for working with horses.

SLO2: Demonstrate western riding skills at a targeted level of proficiency.

**Learning Objectives:**

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- Identify the parts of a horse.

- Relate a horse’s conformation (form) to function.

- Employ proper safety and groundwork practices.

- Employ proper catch and haltering techniques.

- Properly utilize basic horse-related knots.

- Identify and label parts of tack.

- Assess the balance and movement of a horse by applying the principles of

biomechanics.

- Differentiate among and describe uses of horse equipment for different riding

applications.

- Demonstrate basic riding skill at walk, trot, and lope.

- Identify and ride basic transitions between gaits.

- Discuss the basic key considerations for selecting and purchasing a horse.

- Summarize the basic principles of riding western horses in a variety of events.

Lecture and Laboratory Topics:

I. Parts of the Horse

II. Conformation

III. Basic Safety and Groundwork

A. Safety

B. Groundwork

1. Approaching a horse

2. Haltering a horse

3. Leading a horse

4. Tying a horse

5. Saddling

6. Unsaddling

7. Bridling

8. Unbridling

9. Lunging

10. Restraints

IV. Catch and haltering

V. Basic knots

A. Quick release

B. Fiador knot

C. Mecate

VI. Horse equipment

A. Parts of the western saddle and bridle

B. Equipment uses for different riding applications

VII. Biomechanics of movement

A. Muscles involved in gaits and action

B. Common gait defects

C. Center of gravity

VIII. Riding horses

A. Walk

B. Trot

C. Lope

IX. Basic transitions between gaits

X. What to consider when selecting and purchasing a horse

XI. Western competition classes

A. Rules and regulations that apply to different events

B. Training the show horse

C. Judging different events

D. Riding patterns

Bringing Outside Horses to Class:

Students can bring outside horses to class after the 7th week of the semester and with

instructor approval. Please check with the instructor weekly as we may not ride on certain

weeks. At any point if the rider and horse are deemed “unsafe” by the instructor the student will

no longer be allowed to bring the horse.

Parking:

There is to be NO PARKING AT THE PAVILION. Students must park in assigned student

parking and will walk to the pavilion for the lab. Any unauthorized cars will be ticketed.

Enforcement on this is very strict.

TENTATIVE Class Schedule

Week 1- No horses

- Syllabus and class rules

- Tour of facility

Week 2- No Class (Jan. 17th - Martin Luther King Day Observed)

Week 3- No horses

- Go over the parts of the saddle and bridle

- Oil all tack

- Saddle, groom, and ty demo

Week 4

- Leading and mounting

- Leading with patterns and mounting

Week 5

- Riding demonstration

- Riding with other student leading or walking next to them

Week 6

- Riding with other student leading or walking next to them

- Walking the rail solo

Week 7- No Class (Feb. 21st - Washington Day Observed)

Week 8

- Saddle test

Week 9

- Trotting and finding foot fall

- Trotting and find foot fall

Week 10

- Patterns

- Patterns

Week 11

- Lateral work- side passing

- Patterns

Week 12

- Mid-semester clean up

- Experienced riders give one-on-one lessons to new riders (four horses)

- Free ride

Week 13

- All class trot and work on direction and awareness of surrounding and other horses

(used patterns) - make up missing saddle test

Week 14- No Class (April 11th-15th - Spring Break)

Week 15

- Trail contest exercise

Week 16

- Free ride

Week 17

- Free ride

Week 18

- Free ride

- Review for final and end of semester clean up

Week 19

- Finals (Monday, May 16th, 6:00 pm