

**Reedley College Natural Resources Program
Course Syllabus Spring 2023**

Class Name & Number: NR 31/NR331 - Animal Packing, Section 31-50146/331-50950

Units: 2.0 (1-hour lecture, 3-hours labs per week)

Instructor Information:

Loni Langdon B.S.

Email: loni.langdon@reedleycollege.edu

Phone: (760)920-5159

Office Hours: By appointment

Class Meetings:

Friday 9:00am-12:50pm in the Livestock Pavillon or AGR15.

Check Canvas weekly for class location notifications or changes.

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

January 16, 2023 (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance

February 17, 2023 (Friday) Lincoln Day observance

February 20, 2023 (Monday) Washington Day observance

April 3 - 7, 2023 (Monday-Friday) Spring recess [classes reconvene April 10]

Drop Deadline:

January 20 - Last day to drop with a full refund

January 27 - Last day to drop on WebAdvisor to avoid a "W"

January 27 - Last day to add class

March 10 - Last day to drop the class with a "W" (letter grades assigned after this date).

Final Exam: Monday May 15 9:00-10:50am

Prerequisite: None

Text & Other Course Material (not required):

Hill, Oliver C. *Packing and Outfitting, Field Guide*. Cheyenne, WY, University of Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 2006.

Back, Joe. *Horses, Hitches and Rocky Trails*. New York, New York, Skyhorse Publishing. 2013.

Roeser, Marye. *Switchback Trails Across the Sierra: The Story of Commercial Packing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California*. Coleville, CA, High Sierra Western Art. 2020.

Peters. S., & Black, M. *Evidence Based Horsemanship*. Shelbyville KY, Wasteland Press, 2012.
USDA Forest Service Technology and Development Program, 23-00Recreation, October 1993,
#9323-2839-MTDC, U.S. Government Printing Office: 1994-589-244/80021

Attendance Requirements:

You are expected to attend every class session. Be in class on time. Some class meetings will require that you travel to a site off of the Reedley College Campus including a pack station in the mountains. Unless otherwise notified you should be in class by 9:00am and remain until all equipment is stored, animals have been attended to and cleanup is complete.

Participation will count for 10% of your final grade. Participation points will be deducted for any class that a student misses. You will have 10% out of 100% deducted from your participation grade for each absence. Packing is a physically demanding skill. Tasks will be shared. Students are expected to help each other fairly. The responsibility to drop the course lies with the student.

- Student are responsible for obtaining the notes/handouts 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 unexcused absence.
- At the end of the ninth week of instruction no withdrawals are permitted, and a student must receive a grade.
- Students may be dropped if they miss more than two consecutive class meetings without explanation before week 4.

Required Equipment:

Students are required to have western close toe boots with smooth soles and a wedge heel. Wide or lug-sole boots are not permitted while riding because they are difficult to get out of a stirrup and pose a safety risk. You will not be permitted to ride without proper boots. Long pants/jeans that are loose enough for easy movement are essential. Long sleeve western shirts, boots, a western hat and a belt will be necessary for competition. It is recommended that you use a riding helmet to protect your head while riding animals in the event of a fall. You will be responsible for having your own helmet. Gloves are recommended to protect your hands but are not required.

Laboratory Responsibilities:

You must help with catching and grooming the stock plus cleanup at the conclusion of each class. There is a lot of equipment that must be stored in the tack container, mules must be returned to pastures, and all manure has to be shoveled and hauled. If you leave before the work is done you may lose credit for attendance that day.

Physical Requirements:

This course is physically demanding. It will be necessary for you to walk and run, carry and lift up to 75 pounds of weight, and perform arduous work for at least one hour without a rest

period. However, you should communicate to the instructor any physical limitation you have that may prevent you from safely performing any action asked of you. It is your responsibility to make safe choices for yourself while working with livestock and equipment. If you have any temporary or long-term disability which inhibits your performance or safety, please discuss that with the instructor. The instructor will strive to accommodate your needs. Be prepared for any weather. Class will be held in all conditions outdoors.

Working Safely with Livestock:

Horses and mules weigh up to 1500 pounds and sometimes respond to situations quickly. You should remain aware of the animals' likely actions at all times. You may be removed from a laboratory exercise if the instructor deems it appropriate for your welfare or for the benefit of an animal. You have the right to ask for assistance from the teacher at any time you are concerned for your safety.

Modified Schedule:

Please note meeting locations vary. It is the student's responsibility to meet at the correct place, on time. Special Lab Locations to be Announced. Check Canvas regularly for updates.

Grading Policy:

Equitation Proficiency 10%

Saddling, Bridling, Mounting, Control of Animal in Motion, Balance and Posture of Rider, Passing Obstacles on Trail, Leading Pack Animal/s

Packing Proficiency 30%

Saddling, Crating Loads, Balancing Various Equipment and Loads, Mantee Use, Lash Rope Hitches - Box and Diamond, Knots & Hitches, Stringing Animals Together

Camp Skills 10%

High Line, Backcountry Etiquette, Feed Requirements, Food Storage, Low Impact Travel and Camping, Site Rehabilitation

Animal Handling Proficiency and Safety 15%

Catching, Haltering, Leading, Hoof Care, Grooming, Health Assessment

Competition Preparation 10%

Teamwork, Event Elapsed Time, Quality, Score, Appearance, Dignity

Animal Driving 5%

Harnessing, Hitching, Driving Skill

Class Participation 10%

Attendance & Skill Assessments: 10%

Cumulative course grade will be based upon the following:

A 90 – 100% B 80 – 89 C 70 – 79 D 60 – 69 F 59 or less

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. **Absolutely no cell phones during lab, while handling livestock or while riding.**

Cheating and Plagiarism:

In compliance with SCCC 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.

Accommodations 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:

Students will develop skills in packing, driving and riding mules and horses. Students will gain experience in handling, feeding, health care and safety. Students will experience riding, packing and driving under arena and trail conditions. Low impact environmental livestock techniques and wilderness etiquette will be learned. The course may involve participation in collegiate competition. (A, CSU)

Learning Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Perform basic horsemanship skills and animal safety.
2. Saddle animals, load cargo, and complete two types of rope hitches.
3. Identify and define parts of a horse, saddle, pack saddle, packing equipment, and grooming equipment.
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge of feeding requirements and emergency care under trail conditions.
5. Recite forest regulations for pack strings and camping.
6. Drove horses or mules pulling a log or vehicle.
7. Participate as a member of collegiate team.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

NR-31 SLO1: Examine and choose animals and equipment for safety and efficiency in packing.

NR-31 SLO2: Differentiate between proper and inappropriate livestock management techniques.

NR-31 SLO3: Safely, saddle, ride and pack mules or horses and drive mules or horses in harness.

Lecture Topics:

- History of Animal Packing in the Sierra Nevada
- Equines as a Herd and Prey Species, Understanding Equine Behavior and Body Language
- Knots and Hitches for Packers
- Equipment: Halters, Bridles and Saddles for Riding and Packing
- Equine Care: grooming, hoof cleaning, checking for lameness/soreness, bodywork, veterinary care
- Planning A Backcountry Trip with Livestock: destinations, permits, regulations.
- Backcountry feeding and watering: grazing and high lines. Livestock nutritional needs, certified weed free feeds, supplements and salt.
- Livestock Leave No Trace Wilderness Philosophy: Personal & Livestock Hygiene
- Preparing Livestock for Backcountry Travel: Conditioning, Practice, Shoeing
- The Reality of Wrecks (Accidents) - Equine and Human Emergencies, Stock Safety and Veterinary Care
- Choosing Personal Clothing and Equipment

Lab Topics:

- Equine & Human Safety, Horse vs. Mule, Packing Demo, Intro to Equipment, Half Hitch
- Equine Anatomy, Equine Handling: catching, haltering w/half hitch and leading safely
- Rope Handling, Quick Release Hitch and Tying of Livestock
- Riding vs Packing Equipment: Saddling the Steel Mule
- Equine Care: grooming, hoof cleaning, checking for lameness/soreness
- Saddle Fitting/Saddling of riding and pack equine, bridling of saddle horse
- Mounting and Riding, Basic Equitation - Arena
- Mounting and Riding, Advanced Equitation - Trail
- Trail Riding and Safety Considerations: Situational Environmental Safety
- Pack Loads and Hitches: which hitch to use on a particular load, blanking a load for livestock
- Loading and Securing Equipment on the Equine for Safety
- Leading Pack Stock from a Riding Animal
- Stringing Pack Stock Together, Leading and Traveling as a Pack Train or Pack String
- Field Experience: Packing and Trail Skills Application: e
- Loading and Trailer Hauling of Equines
- Cuisine Dutch Oven Style: Low Impact Kitchens, Fire Safety
- Packing for Arena Competition: Competition & Timed Events: Box Hitch, Diamond Hitch & Trail

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

Attendance Policies

Students should evaluate their own health daily and must complete the online health screening available daily: https://scccd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IO880HybZg7ajX

If they have any of the following symptoms, they should not attend class. Students are encouraged to contact the nurse or healthcare provider for further guidance. Common COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose (not due to seasonal allergies)
- fever (100.4 degrees or more)
- and/or chills

Students should also not attend class if they have had close contact with anyone who has had these symptoms in the last 14 days.

COVID 19 Safety Practices

Facial Coverings: Students and instructors are required to wear facial coverings or masks that cover and fit the face against the nose and mouth when entering, exiting, and throughout class. Students who have a documented medical condition that prevents them from using a snugly fitting facial covering can use face shields as an alternative.

Hand washing: Students are required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer prior to class. Hand sanitizer is available in the classroom for their use.

Social Distancing: Students are required to stay at least 6 feet apart while on campus. In the classroom, maintain social distance and sit in seats as designated by the seating chart.

Classroom Cleaning: Students will wipe down their seating/work area with disinfectant before and after class.

Safety procedures are subject to update.