

ASC 310: Equine Anatomy and Conformation

Section 001; M 3-3:50; W 3-4:50

Meeting place: Garrigus 109; other locations announced as needed

Instructor: Laurie Lawrence, Ph.D.
905 W.P. Garrigus;
Office hours: 1-3 PM Wednesday, others by appointment or chance;
however, I have an open door and am usually in the office most days
between 9AM and 5:30 PM
Phone: 257-7509; llawrenc@uky.edu
Mail box on 9th floor of Garrigus Building
Staff assistant on 9th floor: Chuck Guinnup; 257-7508

Course Content: Anatomy and conformation of the horse with emphasis on the feet and legs. Topics will also include movement, lameness and the relationship of conformation to soundness and defects in movement.

Objectives:

General: To gain a better understanding of the support structures involved in the movement and performance of equine athletes.

Specific:

- 1) Learn the major structures in the horse's limbs and their functions
- 2) Understand the major types of lamenesses affecting horses and learn the specific structures involved in those lamenesses
- 3) Learn to identify conformation faults and understand how those faults can affect movement and soundness

Grading:

"Quizzes" (6) @ 50 pt each = 300 pt (these will include in-class quizzes and judging placings/questions on judging classes)

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| Midterm | 150 pt |
| Homework/in class assignments | 100 pt |
| Final Exam | 150 pt |
| Total | 700 |

Grading scale:

- A = >630**
- B = 560 to 629**
- C = 490 to 559**
- D = 435 to 489**
- E = <435**

Format and Grading of Assignments, Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes and exams will contain both short answer questions and essay questions. Short answer questions are usually multiple choice, matching, true/false or fill-in the blank format. Some short answer questions may require you to write one or two sentences, list or write a brief definition. You will not lose credit for occasional small spelling errors, but the word must be recognizable. You may lose credit for repeated spelling errors of common or important words. For example, repeated use of the word “gate” when you really mean “gait” may be penalized. *In most essay questions, grading will include sentence structure, grammar and organization as well as content.* Be particularly attentive to any instructions on the exam or quiz regarding the essays. If the exam says “Use complete sentences, do not list”, that means using bullet phrases or listing will be penalized.

Home work will be graded using the same criteria as above, although a higher standard may be applied to spelling as in most cases you could look up spelling if you are uncertain.

Expectations regarding academic performance

Familiarity with the material covered in the class will increase the ability of any horse person to care for, train or breed horses. For students interested in going on to veterinary school it will provide useful introductory material for the gross anatomy classes required there. For current or future horse owners or managers, it will increase your ability to understand lameness, discuss lameness and treatment options with your veterinarian and to select horses for performance and breeding. **Therefore, ALL of the information presented in this class should be important to anyone that is serious about horses or the horse industry.**

The prerequisites for this class are ASC 106 and ASC 120 or ASC 101 and ASC 102. I expect you to already know the material covered in those classes as it relates to this class. Specifically, you must know the external parts of the horse, the external parts of the hoof and the major bones of the equine skeleton.

The material covered in this course is not conceptually difficult. **However, it will require you to study 1-3 hours per week depending on your background and study habits.** Much of the material covered in this class involves memorization of skeletal structures, tendons and ligaments. Through the use of frequent quizzes, the material is broken up into smaller units to make learning easier. Typically we will have a quiz every 3 or 4 class periods (about every other week) depending on the amount of material covered. There are six quizzes scheduled, each worth 50 points. Therefore, in this class, each quiz is significant and accounts for an important component of the final grade (about 7% of the total points). Also, we will progress through the material in a sequential order such that areas covered later in the semester require continued mastery of material covered earlier in the semester. For example, when we discuss lameness in the hock, I will expect you to remember the material we covered regarding the anatomy of the hock. **Also, the midterm and final exams are comprehensive.**

I will provide a large number of handouts. Many of these will be diagrams that we will fill in during class. To keep your notes organized and to improve their usefulness for studying, I recommend that you use a binder of some sort and that you bring colored pens or pencils to class. Once I have given a handout, I expect you to have it during subsequent classes. Sometimes I have extra copies, but if I do not, it may be difficult for you to take complete notes without the handout.

Whenever there is a reading assignment, it is fair game for quiz material, even if we do not spend much time discussing it in class.

If you are taking a quiz or an exam and you are unsure of what is being asked, please be sure to get clarification from me. This often occurs on test material where there are diagrams to be labeled. If you are not sure where an arrow is pointing or how detailed an answer should be, be sure to ask. It is easier for me to grade papers with the correct answer than to correct wrong answers and add up point deductions!

We will have several laboratories scheduled which will involve work with horse cadaver legs or feet. I may also bring parts of legs to class. Most students find these activities to be helpful in learning anatomy and understanding some lameness. However, some students are not comfortable with handling cadaver legs or feet. I will make every effort to accommodate individuals that have an aversion to these activities. However, everyone should realize that some quiz or exam material will involve identification of structures on cadaver legs and feet. **We will have at least 1, and possibly 2, quizzes that will involve the identification of parts on cadaver legs.** Therefore, it is important for you to attend those laboratories, even if you do not actively participate in the dissections.

This course is scheduled to meet for lecture on Monday and laboratory on Wednesday. During the first few weeks of the class, most material will be presented in lecture format so the Wednesday class periods will end at about 4:15 instead of at 4:50. **However, some time in mid-February, we will start utilizing the entire Wednesday class period.**

During the last month of the course, we may have laboratories at the Horse Unit on Maine Chance Farm. Laboratories at the farm will begin at 3:25 and end at 4:30 on Wednesday to allow for travel time to and from the farm. Transportation can be provided, or you can provide your own.

Policies on missed classes, late homework and missed exams and quizzes

Quizzes and Exams: "Make-ups" will be given only if permission to miss the quiz/exam is given **prior to** the announced date of the quiz/exam **or** if the student misses the quiz for a reason accepted as valid by the university as outlined in the University Bulletin . If a quiz is missed without permission, and for a reason other than those accepted by the university, a make-up may not be given and a **grade of "0"** will be assigned for that quiz, placing, etc. **For judging activities that count as a quiz score, there will be**

absolutely no make-ups for any reasons other than those listed in the university bulletin! Remember that each quiz accounts for about 7% of your total points so a score of "0" on a quiz can have a significant impact on your final grade, potentially lowering your grade by one letter. *You are the person responsible for your academic performance. If you know you are going to have another exam on the same day as a scheduled quiz and you expect that you will not be able to study adequately for the quiz, it is your responsibility to discuss the possibility of a taking a make-up BEFORE the day of the quiz; not the day of, or after. There are no "retakes" and there are no dropped quiz scores.*

Quizzes are always announced. *I will attempt to announce each quiz at least two class periods before it is given, but on occasion I may announce it just one class period before. If you miss class, be sure to find out if a quiz is scheduled for the next class period. In most cases, quizzes will be given at the end of class.*

Homework and In-Class Assignments: Occasionally we may have an in-class assignment associated with a lab exercise, these may or may not be announced in advance. In addition there may be homework assignments. Assignments handed in after 5 PM on the due date will be considered late. A 5% reduction in credit will be taken for the first late day and a 10% reduction for EACH day afterwards. Late homework should be left in my mail box or given to me in class. Please do not leave late homework on my desk or under my door as it is likely to become lost. I would prefer that you do not email me your homework.

Attendance: Although attendance is not strictly monitored, it is suggested that all classes be attended. If you miss a class, notes should be obtained from another student under most circumstances. My notes are often in outline form and do not include all the details covered or discussed in class. I can provide missed handouts for up to a week after the missed class. Some work is visual (videos, slides, cadaver specimens, etc) and can not be acquired through "notes", thus it is important to minimize the number of classes that are missed. In addition, some homework assignments will be based on material presented in class, if you miss class, it may be impossible to complete the homework or in-class assignment.

Academic Integrity, Cheating and Plagiarism:

Except in the case of group projects, every student is expected to work independently and submit only their own work. Copying someone else's work for a homework is considered plagiarism. Copying someone else's work during an exam is cheating. Bringing materials to an exam or quiz that helps you answer the questions is cheating. Using materials someone else brought to class is also cheating. The **minimum** penalty for cheating or plagiarism is failure of the class (a grade of E).

Course Topics:

Tentative schedule (subject to change!)

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| Jan | 10: Introduction | Mar | 26: Lameness |
| | 15: no class | | 28: Lameness |
| | 17: Horses in Action | April | 2: Lameness |
| | 22: Limb Conformation | | 4: Conformation |
| | 24: How Horses Move | | 9: Conformation |
| | 29: Bones and Joints | | 11: Conformation |
| | 31: Bones and Joints | | 16: Judging |
| Feb | 5: Tendons and Ligaments | | 18: Judging |
| | 7: Front limb | | 23: Evaluating Movement |
| | 12: Front limb | | 25: Evaluating Movement |
| | 14: Front limb, begin cadaver legs | | |
| | 19: Hind limb | April 30: | Final Exam, 3:30 PM |
| | 21: Hind limb, continue with legs | | |
| | 26: Midterm Exam | | |
| | 28: Hind limb, continue with legs | | |
| Mar | 5: The Hoof | | |
| | 7: Hoof Lab | | |
| | 12: Spring Break | | |
| | 14: Spring Break | | |
| | 19: Lameness | | |
| | 21: Lameness | | |