

COURSE SYLLABUS HORSE EVALUATION 1 & 2

Instructor: M. Anema

Course Description and Objectives:

This course presents the basic principles, criteria and methodology of horse evaluation and selection. In addition to basic, general horsemanship knowledge (breeds, colors, markings, health management, nutrition management, etc), breed, conformation, and performance standards for competitive equine events and the horse as an athlete will be emphasized. The different breeds that will be studied include the Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, American Paint Horse, Arabian, Morgan, Saddlebred, and Hunter (Thoroughbred type). The various disciplines studied include Western events (W. Pleasure, W. Riding, W. Horsemanship, Reining), hunt seat events (Hunter Pleasure, Hunter Hack, Hunt Seat Equitation), English events (Country Pleasure, English Equitation), and Pleasure Driving. Students will be encouraged to develop skills in the critical evaluation and ranking of horses, the presentation of oral reasons, and the guidelines for competitive horse judging. ****Course required for the Equine Studies Certificate.**

Class Structure:

The course is worth 0.5 elective credit, is structured as a two semester course (0.25 credit per semester), and meets once weekly (Fri; 2 hour instructional periods). The class will consist primarily of lecture format, comparative judging, and LOTS of practice. Practices will include evaluating slides, videos, and live events. Students will also be required to learn how to develop and present oral reasons to defend their class rankings. Competitive judging teams will be selected from class participants, and include contest opportunities through FFA events. Occasionally, optional extended Friday sessions and Saturday practice sessions will be held to help students develop technical skills and practice for contests (STRONGLY recommended for competitive team members). These practices will take place on-site at local horse shows (e.g., West World). Class participants also have the opportunity and are expected to help AAEC host the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest (October), ANLS 4-H/FFA Horse Show (January), and the AAEC Equine Extravaganza (April).

****Prerequisites:** none, Equine Science 1 recommended

Class Expectations:

Participation: Success is 90% attitude, 10% aptitude. EVERYONE can learn how to judge horses, regardless of their competitive equine experience. Students are expected to arrive at class on time, prepared with their class materials, and willing to participate during class. A sincere, honest effort is the best way to assure success. **Students are expected to attend class with an open mind and leave personal biases at the door.**

Attendance: Regular attendance is CRITICAL for successful completion of this class. Students are expected to attend EVERY Friday class, and be ON TIME. Regular attendance is essential to the successful completion of the class. Students anticipating an absence due to horse shows, rodeos, or field trips are required to give the instructor PRIOR notification. Students absent due to illness MUST be called in by a parent PRIOR to class. No make-up opportunities exist for the activities or practices missed because of an absence. Students who miss an excessive number of classes lose valuable time spent practicing and developing critical technical skills essential for success. Students having more than 3 absences in a semester will likely be dropped from the class, receive a failing grade, and lose their eligibility to compete. **Come to class and be ready to learn and practice.**

Adherence to AAEC Policy: Students are expected to know and follow AAEC and PVCC rules concerning appropriate dress and conduct. No hats or sunglasses will be worn during class. Students not complying with dress code will not be allowed to attend class, and will take an unexcused absence. Cell phones are to be turned off, kept in backpacks or purses, and will be confiscated if they disrupt class. Confiscated cell phones can only be retrieved by a parent from the office. No drink, food, or gum is allowed in the classroom except for bottled water.

Respect: **This class is an elective, and it is a privilege to attend. The critical thinking and public speaking skills learned in this class can be applied to all other areas of academic and life success. Students who participate join a tradition of excellence that has produced multiple state championship and national contest caliber teams. Students are expected to demonstrate respect to the learning environment, their instructor, themselves and other students. This respect includes courtesy, kindness, compliance, tolerance, professionalism, and above all else, DEDICATION.**

Recognize the good in yourself
Every person is special and has something to offer
Show consideration for those around you
Provide support and encouragement to your peers
Earn respect by showing respect
Cooperate with your peers and your teacher
Together, we can all make a difference!

Homework/Exams/Textbooks/Materials:

The Horse Evaluation class is a “hands-on” class. Formal, graded homework will not be assigned. However, students are expected to review their notes, seek opportunities to observe horses, learn terms and practice at home. In addition, frequent quizzes will be given to test their mastery of basic horse knowledge. Students will be provided a judging handbook to be kept in a three-ring binder and brought to class weekly, and will need a single subject notebook for taking notes. Students will be taking online subject knowledge tests as well as a comprehensive final each semester. Students are *strongly* encouraged to have AND use a calendar/day planner.

Competitive Team Selection:

All students in the class are encouraged to compete in judging contests. Primary judging contests include the ANLS Youth Horse Judging Contest (January), District FFA Contest (February), and State FFA Contest (March). To be eligible for competition, students are required to enroll in FFA, pay the \$15.00 activity fee, and maintain passing grades in ALL classes by earning a grade of C or higher. To be highly competitive, students are encouraged to complete additional Equine Science courses. The State FFA Team will be determined by the four high-scoring competitors at the District FFA contest. The contest includes a practical portion (judging and reasons), as well as a knowledge portion (online assessment of general equine science/management concepts). The State Team, if successful at winning the state title, will become eligible to compete in the National FFA contest held the following October. The State Team will also be responsible for presenting the judging clinic held in conjunction with the AAEC Equine Extravaganza.

Grading:

Grades will be primarily determined by attendance and participation in class, and comprehensive semester finals. Students will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail system (70% or higher will receive a passing grade). Students who have more than three absences in a semester CANNOT receive a passing grade. In extenuating circumstances, a final determination of the grade will be made at the discretion of the teacher and administration.

Instructor contact information: manema@aaechighschools.com, 602-569-1101 (AAEC office)

***Instructor's disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change the class and grading policy as needed. Any changes will be in the students' best interests and announced when changed.*

COURSE TOPICS FOR HORSE EVALUATION 1 & 2

Instructor: M. Anema

- Unit 1: Characteristics of a Good Judge
- Unit 2: Basic Equine Anatomy
- Unit 3: Horse Identification Factors (colors, markings, patterns)
- Unit 4: General Conformation Standards
- Unit 5: Defects in Conformation
- Unit 6: Basic Breed Descriptions and Standards
- Unit 7: Procedures and Priorities for Judging Classes
- Unit 8: Practical Note-taking for Judging
- Unit 9: Developing and Presenting Oral Reasons
- Unit 10: Practical Evaluation of Conformation
- Unit 11: Basic Performance Descriptions
- Unit 12: Correctness of Gaits
- Unit 13: Practical Evaluation of Western Pleasure
- Unit 14: Practical Evaluation of Hunter Pleasure
- Unit 15: Practical Evaluation of Western Horsemanship
- Unit 16: Practical Evaluation of Hunt Seat Equitation
- Unit 17: Practical Evaluation of Western Riding
- Unit 18: Practical Evaluation of Reining
- Unit 19: Practical Evaluation of English Pleasure
- Unit 20: Practical Evaluation of Pleasure Driving
- Unit 21: Practical Evaluation of Hunter Hack
- Unit 22: Practical Contest Evaluation

AAEC - Paradise Valley

Syllabus Receipt

Date: _____

Student Name: (print) _____

Class: Horse Evaluation 1 & 2

Semester: _____

I have read a copy of the course syllabus for this class. Along with the instructor's discussion of the contents of the syllabus, **I have read it and understand the class objectives, procedures, and what is expected of me to earn credit and a specific grade for this class. I understand the attendance and competitive eligibility policies.** I have reviewed this syllabus with my parent(s).

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Student email: _____

Student cell*: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent phone: _____

Parent email: _____

Parent contact preference: _____ phone _____ email

*Student cell phone numbers are kept filed and only used as needed for arranging and managing practice workouts at live events (i.e. Sun Country Circuit or Scottsdale Arabian Show at West World), or competitive events.