

# Weanling Behavioral Modification

ANS 4231

1 credits

Fall 2022

## Section 9796

Lecture: W 3:00-3:50 PM

Lab MF 3:00 – 3:50 PM

## Section 2053

Lecture: W 4:05 -4:55 PM

Lab MF 4:05 – 4:55 PM

## Location

Horse Teaching Unit

1934 SW 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave

Gainesville, FL 32611



## Course Description

This practicum examines equine behavioral modification methods that emphasize a balanced approach for developing an adaptable, responsive young horse using reasonable, achievable training methods.

## Objectives

Practicum courses offer hands on approaches to skills improvement that is founded on the science of actual production models. During this course you will develop and adapt the following skills:

- Develop an understanding suckling/weanling behavior and safe handling practices.
- Develop confident ground handling skills around the unbroke young horse.
- Emphasize appropriate training methods, goals, and outcomes to develop a calm, well-mannered young horse.
- Demonstrate varied training styles including the appropriate use of verbal cues, body position, restraint, and correction.
- Observe equine behaviors, body language, and herd social structure as they relate to horse psychology and training.
- Observe research methods used to evaluate horse behavior.

## Your Professors

Justin Callaham  
459-210E ANS Building  
352-294-6754

[callaham@ufl.edu](mailto:callaham@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Before or after class at HTU or by appointment.



Angela Chandler  
Horse Teaching Unit  
352-376-0562

[angelachandler@ufl.edu](mailto:angelachandler@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Before or after class or by appointment.



## Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be expected to demonstrate the following outcomes,

- Identify differences between the young horse and the broke horse.
- Develop reasonable, achievable training plans for the individual horse.
- Demonstrate calm and confident handling techniques of the young horse.
- Demonstrate an understanding of ask-encourage-assert in behavioral modification.
- Understand why an independent thinker improves market potential.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills when dealing with the problem horse.
- Demonstrate adaptive training methods consistent with individual horse personalities in mind.
- Demonstrate effective communication with the young horse using verbal, visual, and social cues to communicate handler intent.
- Produce a young horse that is calm, quiet, and confident that demonstrates a willingness to follow and adapt.

## Horse Goals

At the end of this course, horses will be expected to demonstrate each of the following in a calm, quiet manner.

- Haltering and leading.
- Stand quietly for novel stimuli.
- Respond to pressure.
- Bathe and fly spray
- Pick up feet
- Lounge
- Trot in hand
- Yo-Yo Game
- Tie
- Navigate obstacles
- Self-load on a trailer
- Ground tie

## Course Policies

- Communication is very important. If you have any questions or problems, please reach out to your instructors as soon as possible.
- Class begins promptly at the designated start times. Students will be marked absent if more than 10 minutes late. Students with course conflicts should notify an instructor as soon as possible if you have an issue.
- **Appropriate attire** is required for the safe handling of young horses. This includes long pants, short/long sleeve shirt, closed toed shoes. The most appropriate footwear is a leather boot or shoe that protects the foot and ankle from injury.
- In the event of **inclement weather**, please check the “Announcements” section of Canvas to see if there has been any adjustment to the class meeting schedule. Weather conditions change rapidly this time of year and last-minute class cancellations may occur based on rain and lightning events. Any cancellation will be sent with at least 30 minutes notice.

## Working with Livestock

Working with livestock will require students to adhere to handling practices provided by the instructor either in written or verbal format. Animals are capable of injuring people, especially when they are in the flight or fight mode inspired by a stressful situation. The instructor will work to provide students with the ability to manage livestock with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and animals.

## Assignments

Evaluation (tentative)	Total Points	Percent of Grade
<p><b>Class attendance</b> is expected. Attendance is worth 50 points per day. Attendance grade is calculated by dividing points earned by total available points.</p> <p>In the event a student must miss class, notify Mr. Callaham before the absence. There will be no makeup days offered in this course.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link to UF Catalog Attendance Policies  <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext">https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext</a></p>	2,050	64%
<p><b>Video Practical's</b> will be used to evaluate training benchmarks during the term. Students will use Microsoft Flipgrid assignments in Canvas to record short video clips of important training benchmarks. Each video practical will be graded using a rubric for feedback on these activities and peer reviewed by 1 other student and the course instructor. Each video practical will be worth 100 points each.</p> <p><b>Assigned Activities:</b> Catching and haltering, picking up feet, moving the shoulder from a set point, lounging, and trailering.</p>	500	16%
<p><b>Startle Response Behavioral Research</b> will be a part of the student experience in this course. Students will be assisting with a behavioral experiment designed to assess startle response in the horse when exposed to a sudden novel stimulus. This project aims to characterize, in a study over multiple years and generations of horses, the startle response in the UF herd of weanlings and 2-year-olds.</p> <p><b>Assigned Activities:</b> Initial Behavioral Animal Survey (50 points), Acclimate to heart rate monitor girth (100 points), acclimate to the round pen (100 points each), and Startle Day (150 points), Final Behavioral Animal Survey (50 points)</p>	450	14%
<p><b>Weanling Extravaganza Horseshow</b> is the final exam in this course. It is an opportunity for students to demonstrate semester achievements to horse industry leaders, family, friends, and the public. Students and horses will demonstrate their comprehensive skill sets as they navigate a mixed obstacle course and horse show pattern to a panel of judges. <b>Students need to put Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 pm on their calendar.</b></p>	200	7%

## Grading Scale

Letter	Percentage
A	95 – 100
A –	90 – 94.9
B +	87 – 89.9
B	83 – 86.9
B –	80 – 82.9
C +	77 – 79.9
C	74 – 76.9
C –	70 – 73.9
D +	67 – 69.9
D	64 – 65.9
D –	60 – 63.9
F	< 60

**\*Class grade will be lowered one letter grade with excessive unexcused absences (>3). Excused absences are consistent with university policy. Confirmed illnesses, family emergencies, military/jury duty, religious observances, and university-sponsored events will be excused with proper documentation. For each of these instances, you must (1) provide written documentation from an authority (such as a doctor's note, commanding officer, published obituary, etc) and (2) notify Mr. Callaham before the absence. Link to university policy <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext>**

## Important Dates

August 24	First class meeting
August 30	Last day of Drop/Add
September 5	Holiday – No class
October 26 & 28	Behavioral Research Test Days
November 11	Holiday – No class
November 21 – 25	Holiday – No class
November 21	Last day to drop a class
December 7	Final Exam – Horseshow

## In Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## Campus Assistance Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal difficulties that interfere with general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students experiencing difficulties or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance:

### Health and Wellness Resources

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,

Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

### Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

If you are having problems comprehending lecture and (or) lab material or have other academic, university, or personal issues that are affecting your academic performance, please feel free to visit with the instructors to address the problem(s). Please do not wait until the end of the semester to address any difficulties you may be having.

## Class Schedule

(tentative – may change due to weather, homecoming, and horse readiness)

Date	Topic	Viewpoint Videos	What's Due
W 8/24	Introduction to the Course	Video: Introduction to Weanling Handling	
F 8/26	How to safely catch the young horse, Tying rope halters.	Video: Chris Cox Behavior and Catching Horses	
M 8/29	Work Day		
W 8/31	Basic Desensitization / Introduction to Pressure Release	Video: Larry Trocha's lesson on halter and pressure release using neck ropes	
F 9/2	Work Day		Assign weanlings
M 9/5	M 9/5 – Memorial Day – NO CLASS		
W 9/7	Desensitizing feet legs safely Teaching the young horse to follow.		
F 9/9	Work Day		Horse Temperament Survey Due by end of class.
M 9/12	Work Day		
W 9/14	Teaching the young horse to pick up feet	Video: Chris Cox Picking Up Feet	
F 9/16	Work Day		<b>Flip Grid Practical &gt; Demonstrate haltering your horse and tying the rope halter correctly.</b>
M 9/19	Work Day		
W 9/21	Dealing with crowding Desensitization to Novel Objects	Video: Larry Trocha Space Relationship Video	
F 9/23	Teaching the young to lead from the shoulder		

	Introducing Spray Bottles and Water Hose		
M 9/26	Work Day		
W 9/28	Introduction to Lounging		<b>Flip Grid Practical &gt; Demonstrate picking up feet with out off balancing.</b>
F 9/30	Work Day		
M 10/3	Work Day Tying the young horse safely.		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate Girth by end of class.</b>
W 10/5	Using the flank tap method to address problems.	Chris Cox: Lounging Video	<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class</b>
F 10/7	Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class</b>
M 10/10	Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
W 10/12	Teaching Horse to Trot in Hand Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
F 10/14	Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
M 10/17	Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
W 10/19	Introduction to Obstacles Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
F 10/21	Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
M 10/24	Work Day		<b>Research Task &gt; Practice Heart Rate girth by end of class &amp; Feed horse in round pen</b>
W 10/26	Project Surprise Test Day		
F 10/28	Project Surprise Test Day		
M 10/31	Work Day		



W 11/2	Teaching the young horse to load on a trailer using the flank tap method	Read: Householder: Trailer Loading horses using flank tap method.	<b>Flip Grid Practical &gt; Demonstrate loughing technique from both sides.</b>
F 11/4	Work Day		
M 11/7	Work Day		
W 11/9	Prepping for the Weanling Extravaganza	Review: Show Pattern	
F 11/11	<b>F 11/11 - Veterans Day - NO CLASS</b>		
M 11/14	Work Day		<b>Practice Show Pattern</b>
W 11/16	Work Day		<b>Practice Show Pattern</b>
F 11/18	Work Day		<b>Practice Show Pattern</b>
<b>M 11/21 - F 11/25 - Thanksgiving Week - NO CLASS</b>			
M 11/28	Work Day		<b>Practice Show Pattern</b>
W 11/30	Work Day		<b>Practice Show Pattern</b>
F 12/2	Work Day		<b>Flip Grid Practical &gt; Demonstrate shoulder yield using flank tap method</b>
			<b>Practice Show Patter</b>
M 12/5	Work Day > Prep for Horseshow		
W 12/7	Weanling Extravaganza Horseshow		<b>Mark your calendar from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. Classes will not meet until 5:00 pm on this day.</b>