Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PVS0166 Equitation science, 4.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2020-01-08

Subjects

Animal Science

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed
The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

Admitted to a postgraduate program (PhD, MSc) or passed academic graduate level courses in, i.e. animal science, equine science, veterinary science, agricultural science, biology, ethology
Participants of residency programmes (or other specialization programmes with relevance to equitation science) will also be admitted.

Objective, including learning outcomes

After course completion, students shall be able to: describe the horses' biological needs
• discuss and integrate an ethological approach to training and welfare assessment
• define and explain learning theory and apply it to training, accounting for the horses' cognitive and sensory abilities
• define abnormal behaviour, reflect upon the development of unwanted behaviour and provide evidence-based solutions to real life problems
• critically evaluate and explain the effects of management and human/rider on horse welfare
• objectively discuss, communicate, and implement an evidence-based approach to humanhorse interactions

Content

The course will be held during 5 days and will provide participants with scientific and practical tools with which they can validate humanhorse interactions to identify training methods that are ethical and effective and higlight those that represent problems for horse welfare and human safety. To achieve this, lectures and seminars will cover topics such as equine ethology, perception and communication, applied ethology, equine cognition and learning, applied learning theory, research methods in equitiation sceince and communication of scientific findings to promote evidence based practice.
The course consists of lectures (20hours), group discussions (5 hours) and seminars (15 hours), a home assignment (70 hours) and a practical workshop (5 hours) where theoretical knowledge is put into action to bridge science with practice. Real case scenarios will be implemented throughout.

Requirements for examination

Smallscale literature review on a specific topic relevant to equitation science. Key results shall be presented orally. A popular science article shall be written about the chosen topic and suggestions provided of how to implement results in practice. This will be further developed during active group discussions during the course week and a written report shall be handed in after the course.

Additional information

The course is an online event held 14-15 June, 16-17 Spetember and 11-12 October 2021. Participation during the Zoom meetings is obligatory to promote active

learning and engage participants in discussions and cooperation. Pre- and post-assignments for students are obligatory and supervision/guidance will be provided by the main teachers of the course.

For more information, please contact the course organiser:
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For application: www.slu.se/gs-vmas-courses

Responsible department

Department of Animal Environment and Health