



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PVSo160 Equitation science, 4.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2019-03-19

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 or passed academic courses in, i.e., animal, equine, veterinary, agricultural, sports science, biology, veterinary nursing.

Equivalent knowledge obtained by other means, i.e. professional rider/coach, full-time or part time employment in the horse sector.

By opening up for participants other than students with relevant academic qualifications, we will achieve a broader dissemination of knowledge and facilitate collaboration between academia and practice.

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 human-horse interactions to identify training methods that are ethical and effective and highlight 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 equitation science and communication of scientific findings to promote evidence based practice.

The course consists of lectures (20 hours), group discussions (5 hours) and seminars (15 hours), a home assignment (70 hours) and a 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

Small-scale literature review on a specific topic relevant to equitation science. Key results shall be presented orally. A popular 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 will be held at the National Equestrian Centre Strömsholm. Participation during the physical meeting in Strömsholm is obligatory to promote active learning and engage PhD students in discussions and cooperation. Pre- and post-assignments are also obligatory and supervision/guidance will be provided by the main teachers of the course.

Course leader: Dr Elke Hartmann, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU, Dep Animal Environment and Health), co-organiser Dr Maria V Rørvang (SLU, Dep of Biosystems and Technology)

Contact: Elke Hartmann, elke.hartmann@slu.se

Main teachers: Dr Elke Hartmann, Dr Maria V Rørvang, Ass Prof Janne Winther Christensen (Department of Animal Science, Aarhus University, Tjele, Denmark), Prof Paul McGreevy (University of Sydney, Sydney School of Veterinary Science)

Costs: No course fee applies for NOVA, non-NOVA or BOVA PhD students. Course fee of 450 Euros will be charged for all other participants, e.g. professional rider/coach, full-time or part time employment in the horse sector. Travel costs and costs for accommodation is not covered for any participant. Local accommodation at the course venue is available (Single room: from 57 to 76 Euros/night, double room from 115 Euros/night).

Responsible department

Department of Animal Environment and Health