

## **EQN\*1010 Intro to Equine Management Fall 2026**

### **General Information**

**Course Code:** EQN\*1010

**Course Title:** Introduction to Equine Management

**Course Description:**

This course provides the basis for understanding the equine industry, both from a practical and a theoretical perspective. Students will participate in daily routine care and management procedures, and learn basic techniques such as horse handling, grooming, bandaging, blanketing, tack, and fire safety. Horse-environment interactions will focus on equine behaviour. The relationship of horses with humans will be explored from ancient through to modern times, including breeding for specific equestrian sports, prominent horsemen/women, and the variety of career options. Current issues will be explored including economic status and hot topics in the industry. Students may expect early morning and some weekend assignments. Students are required to have approved safety footwear to be in the barn.

**Credit Weight:** 1.00

**Academic Department (or campus):** ABSc

**Campus:** Guelph Campus

**Semester Offering:** Fall 2026

**Class Schedule and Location:**

Lecture: M,W,F 10:30-11:20am; ANNU 204.

Lab 1: T 8:30-11:20am; ANNU 030/ ESMRC – check courselink for weekly location.

Lab 2: F 11:30-2:20pm; ANNU 030/ ESMRC – check courselink for weekly location.

Lab 3: W 11:30-2:20pm; ANNU 030/ ESMRC – check courselink for weekly location.

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor Name: Katrina Merkies

Instructor Email: [kmerkies@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kmerkies@uoguelph.ca)

Instructor Phone and Extension: x54707

Office location and office hours: ABSc 249 by chance or appointment

### **GTA Information**

GTA Name: Caleigh Copelin

GTA Email: [ccopelin@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ccopelin@uoguelph.ca)

GTA office location and office hours: by appointment

GTA Name: Katey Kozak

GTA Email: [kkozak01@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kkozak01@uoguelph.ca)

GTA office location and office hours: by appointment

## **Course Content**

### **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

1. Understand the role of the horse in society
  - a. Know the evolution of the horse and its place in the advancement of civilization
  - b. Be aware of the variety of career options available with horses
  - c. Be aware of the current issues facing the industry
  - d. Be familiar with Equestrian Canada and Ontario Equestrian as regulatory bodies
  - e. Refer to the Equine Code of Practice
  - f. Understand the motivations of industry participants
2. Carry out daily routine horse handling skills
  - a. Discuss basic stable management concepts
  - b. Understand basic behaviour of horses and the biologic/evolutionary basis of equine responses to environmental change
  - c. Know the basic terminology for identifying and describing a horse
  - d. Safely handle a horse
  - e. Perform appropriate grooming techniques
  - f. Know how to clip and/or trim a horse for a variety of purposes
  - g. Know basic herd health requirements
3. Work with common tack and equipment
  - a. Care and correct use of standard barn/horse tack and equipment
  - b. Fit a blanket correctly to a horse
  - c. Apply a variety of bandages for specific purposes
4. Assess the horse
  - a. Accurately measure a horse's temperature, pulse and respiration
  - b. Be able to body condition score a horse
  - c. Be able to recognize a horse in health and illness
  - d. Know what to do in case of an emergency and how to handle a horse for a vet
  - e. Be able to estimate a horse's age by looking at its teeth
  - f. Present a horse properly in hand
  - g. Know basic hoof care
  - h. Identify lameness
5. Work safely in a stable environment
  - a. Recognize and practice safe horse handling techniques with confidence
  - b. Know rights and responsibilities for employees and employers
  - c. Know safe operating procedures for farm equipment
  - d. Adhere to safe farm practices according to the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Ontario
  - e. Know how to follow safety procedures in the event of a fire
6. Develop computing and communication skills
  - a. Use computers in a wide range of applications (Microsoft Office, Internet, etc)
  - b. Improve written communication skills
  - c. Understand the importance of effective communication skills both written and oral
  - d. Establish a comfort level in oral communication.

**Schedule:**

| Week | Date   | Lec/Lab | Topic                                                                  |
|------|--------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0    | Sep 11 | Lec 1   | Introduction to course and assignments. Horse Charter                  |
| 1    | Sep 14 | Lec 1   | The nature of horses                                                   |
|      | Sep 16 | Lec 2   | Evolution of the horse                                                 |
|      | Sep 18 | Lec 3   | Domestication of the horse                                             |
|      |        | Lab     | Intro to barn. Safety around horses, handling, restraint. Useful knots |
| 2    | Sep 21 | Lec 1   | Equine Code of Practice                                                |
|      | Sep 23 | Lec 2   | Equine Code of Practice                                                |
|      | Sep 25 | Lec 3   | Canadian equine industry                                               |
|      |        | Lab     | Parts of the horse. Planes of reference. TPR, weight estimation        |
| 3    | Sep 28 | Lec 1   | Barn safety                                                            |
|      | Sep 30 | Lec 2   | Breed presentations                                                    |
|      | Oct 2  | Lec 3   | PPE, concussion awareness                                              |
|      |        | Lab     | Grooming, clipping, trimming. Showmanship demo                         |
| 4    | Oct 5  | Lec 1   | Horse identification, colours, markings                                |
|      | Oct 7  | Lec 2   | Discipline presentations                                               |
|      | Oct 9  | Lec 3   | Sickness prevention online course – <b>no lecture</b>                  |
|      |        | Lab     | Routine leg and hoof care. Lameness evaluation                         |
| 5    | Oct 12 | Lec 1   | <b>Fall break – no lecture</b>                                         |
|      | Oct 14 | Lec 2   | <b>MIDTERM</b>                                                         |
|      | Oct 16 | Lec 3   | Aging by dentition                                                     |
|      |        | Lab     | <b>Fall break – no lab</b>                                             |
| 6    | Oct 19 | Lec 1   | Herd health                                                            |
|      | Oct 21 | Lec 2   | Current issues presentations                                           |
|      | Oct 23 | Lec 3   | Donkeys, mules, hinnies                                                |
|      |        | Lab     | Boots, bandages, blankets                                              |
| 7    | Oct 26 | Lec 1   | Fundamentals of nutrition                                              |
|      | Oct 28 | Lec 2   | Careers presentations                                                  |
|      | Oct 30 | Lec 3   | Parasite management                                                    |
|      |        | Lab     | Conformation                                                           |
| 8    | Nov 2  | Lec 1   | Nutrient management                                                    |
|      | Nov 4  | Lec 2   | Famous equestrians presentations                                       |
|      | Nov 6  | Lec 3   | BCS online course – <b>no lecture</b>                                  |
|      |        | Lab     | Fecal flotations                                                       |
| 9    | Nov 9  | Lec 1   | Common diseases                                                        |
|      | Nov 11 | Lec 2   | Famous horses presentations                                            |
|      | Nov 13 | Lec 3   | Senior horse management                                                |
|      |        | Lab     | Tack and equipment                                                     |
| 10   | Nov 16 | Lec 1   | EG fire safety online course – <b>no lecture</b>                       |
|      | Nov 18 | Lec 2   | EG fire safety online course – <b>no lecture</b>                       |
|      | Nov 20 | Lec 3   | EG fire safety online course – <b>no lecture</b>                       |
|      |        | Lab     | EG fire safety online course – <b>no lab</b>                           |
| 11   | Nov 23 | Lec 1   | End of life decisions                                                  |
|      | Nov 25 | Lec 2   | <b>No lecture</b>                                                      |
|      | Nov 27 | Lec 3   | <b>No lecture</b>                                                      |

|    |        |       |                              |
|----|--------|-------|------------------------------|
|    |        | Lab   | Showmanship final            |
| 12 | Nov 30 | Lec 1 | Trailer safety               |
|    | Dec 2  | Lec 2 | Review                       |
|    | Dec 4  | Lec 3 | No lecture – Monday schedule |
|    |        | Lab   | No lab                       |

#### Course Assignments and Tests:

| Assignment or Test              | Due Date       | Contribution to Final Mark (%) | Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Midterm</b>                  | Oct 14         | 20                             | 1-6                        |
| <b>Assignments</b>              |                | 35                             | 1-6                        |
| Presentation                    | Various        | 5                              |                            |
| Sickness prevention             | Oct 16         | 2                              |                            |
| Horse ID assignment             | Oct 21         | 5                              |                            |
| Conformation assessment (group) | Week of Oct 26 | 9                              |                            |
| Midterm self-reflection         | Oct 30         | 2                              |                            |
| BCS                             | Nov 13         | 2                              |                            |
| Fire safety course              | Nov 27         | 10                             |                            |
|                                 |                |                                |                            |
| <b>Showmanship class</b>        | Week of Nov 23 | 20                             | 2,3,4                      |
| <b>Final exam</b>               | TBD            | 25                             | 1-6                        |

#### Assignment notes:

- **Presentation** –student will be assigned a topic in pairs to give a short oral presentation during class. See assignment for full details
- **Conformation assessment** – students will work in groups to perform a conformation assessment on assigned horses. This will be done completely during lab time.
- **Horse ID** – each student will provide full details to describe a chosen horse. See assignment for full details
- **Sickness prevention** – students will register in Equine Guelph’s sickness prevention course and work through the material on their own. A certificate of completion must be uploaded to dropbox.
- **Midterm self-reflection** – after receiving marks back on the midterm exams, students will complete a self-reflection. See assignment for full details
- **Body Condition Scoring** – students will register in Equine Guelph’s BCS course and work through the material on their own. A certificate of completion must be uploaded to dropbox.

- **Fire safety course** – students will register in Equine Guelph’s online Fire Safety course. Details on how to register will be provided. A quiz is included at the end of the course. The mark obtained in the quiz will be the mark recorded for this assignment.
- **Showmanship class** – this is a lab final in the format of a horse show. Students will be assigned a horse to demonstrate skills learned throughout the semester. See assignment for full details.

**Additional Notes:** Given that this is a 1.0 credit course, it is expected that students will need to put in at least 10-15h/week outside of scheduled class time to complete the requirements for this course.

All students must wear safety approved footwear when in the barn. Failure to have the appropriate footwear will result in being excused from the class.

Students will be enrolled for free in the Equine Guelph Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness course, Sickness Prevention in Horses course and the Introduction to Body Condition Scoring with all material and quizzes online.

**Final examination date and time:** TBD

**Final exam weighting:** 25%

## **Course Resources**

### **Required Texts:**

BBRM Teaching Herd Standard Operating Procedures (2025) available on Courselink

Horse Management and Handling Manual (2024) available on Courselink

The Equine Code of Practice (2013) available free online

[http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine_code_of_practice.pdf)

Online resources <http://equineguelph.ca/education/healthcare.php>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/care.html>

### **Recommended Texts:**

- Equine Science, Rick Parker 2007 (available online)
- The Complete Horse Manual, Colin Vogel 2011 (available online)
- The BHS Complete Manual of Stable Management, Islay Auty 1998 (in library)
- Horse, Elaine Walker 2008 (in library)

**Lab Manual:** None

### **Other Resources:**

All relevant course material is available on Courselink. Required textbooks are available in the Library. Information relevant to equine courses is available on the [University of Guelph LibGuides](#)

## **Course Policies**

### **Course Technology and Technical Support**

#### **Technical Skills**

As part of your learning experience, you are expected to use a variety of technologies for assignments, lectures, teamwork and meetings. To be successful in this course you will need to have the following technical skills:

- Manage files and folders on your computer (e.g., save, name, copy, backup, rename, delete, and check properties);
- Install software, security and virus protection;
- Use office applications (e.g., Word, PowerPoint, Excel or similar) to create documents;
- Be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files;
- Communicate using email (e.g., create, receive, reply, print, send, download and open attachments);
- Navigate the CourseLink learning environment and use the essential tools such as Dropbox and Grades;
- Access, navigate and search the Internet using a web browser (e.g., Firefox, Internet Explorer);
- Perform online research using various search engines (e.g., Google) and library databases.

#### **CourseLink System Requirements**

This course is being offered using CourseLink (powered by D2L's Brightspace), the University of Guelph's online learning management system (LMS). By using this service, you agree to comply with the University of Guelph's Access and Privacy Guidelines. Please visit the D2L website to review the Brightspace privacy statement and Brightspace Learning Environment web accessibility standards.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/web/privacy/>

<https://www.d2l.com/legal/privacy/>

<https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/standards/>

You are responsible for ensuring that your computer system meets the necessary system requirements. Use the browser check tool to ensure your browser settings are compatible and up to date.

<http://spaces.uoguelph.ca/ed/system-requirements/>

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/systemCheck>

You should also check your internet speed. The recommended minimum speed for effective video-based learning and activities is 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload (Mbps = megabits per second). Go to <https://www.speedtest.net/> to test your connection speed.

#### **Technical Support**

If you need any assistance with the software tools or the CourseLink website, contact CourseLink Support.

Email: [courselink@uoguelph.ca](mailto:courselink@uoguelph.ca)

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 56939 Toll-Free (CAN/USA): 1-866-275-1478

#### **Support Hours (Eastern Time):**

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am–8:30 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Sunday: 12:00 pm–6:00 pm

### Course policy on Generative AI

The use of Generative AI can enrich and enhance your thinking, communication and learning, but it should never replace or subvert it. In this course, GenAI may be used for brainstorming, creating structures and idea generation for improving work. Final submissions must be your own content. GenAI may further be used for grammatical editing of written work to improve clarity and quality of a final submission, but not for the creation of new content. Any GenAI use must be cited. The use of GenAI outside of these contexts constitutes academic misconduct. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the limitations for use and to be clear on the expectations for citation and reference and to do so appropriately (see [APA - How Do I Cite Generative AI? - McMaster LibGuides at McMaster University](#) or [How to cite ChatGPT \(apa.org\)](#)). For ideas on various GenAI resources out there, see [theresanaiforthat.com](#) (TAAFT).

### Grading Policies:

The assignment of grades is based on the clearly defined standards published in the Undergraduate Calendar as follows:

- **80 - 100 (A) Excellent.** An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **70 - 79 (B) Good.** A more than adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a thorough grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to organize and examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a good understanding of the relevant issues and a familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **60 - 69 (C) Acceptable.** An adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a generally adequate grasp of the subject matter and a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student displays an adequate understanding of the relevant issues, and a general familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **50 - 59 (D) Minimally Acceptable.** A barely adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a familiarity with the subject matter, but whose attempts to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner are only partially successful. The student displays some understanding of the relevant issues, and some familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **0 - 49 (F) Fail.** An inadequate performance

Evaluation criteria used gives a measure quality of performance and not merely activity, including consideration of the student's ability to use correctly and effectively the language appropriate to the assignment. Assignments must be submitted electronically via Courselink unless otherwise noted. Due dates and times are explicitly stated in the assignment information. Assignments are graded by rubrics, which are available on Courselink.

In this course, your instructor may use Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin

as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

All tests, assignments, reports, etc., will be returned to, or discussed with students, without undue delay and in any case before the last day of the examination period.

**Missed Assessments & Classes:** Alternate assessments will be offered only to students with documented medical, psychological, or compassionate reasons for missing a scheduled assessment [see Academic Consideration]. It is the student's responsibility to obtain notes/ learning materials from a missed class. **Late assignments without the aforementioned documentation will be accepted with a penalty of 20% per day, up to a maximum of three days late.** Assignments submitted later than 3 days will not be accepted and will result in a zero grade.

### **Course Policy on Group Work:**

Assignments are expected to be individual work unless otherwise noted and are graded as such. All group members will receive the same grade for group work assignments unless otherwise approved by the Instructor and other members of the group. Any problems associated with group work should be brought to the attention of the Instructor as soon as possible.

### **Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Consideration:**

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in [Section VIII \(Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures\) of the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

### **Academic Misconduct:**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of

detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in [Section VIII \(Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures\) of the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

**Accessibility:**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [sas@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sas@uoguelph.ca) or visit the [Student Accessibility Services website \(http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/\)](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

**Course Evaluation Information:**

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) for more information.

**Drop period:**

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the last class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in [Section III \(Schedule of Dates\) of the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the classes in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in [Section VIII \(Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures\) of the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

**Additional Course Information**

All course information, grades and assignments are available on Courselink.