I. **TITLE:**

Basic Horsemanship

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Designed for students with previous experience in the handling of horses. Includes instruction in grooming, saddling, bridling, and mounting; and the development of basic riding skills at the walk, trot, and canter.

Prerequisites: Instructor permission.

III. **PURPOSE:**

To supply students with the ability and knowledge to confidently handle horses and apply the basic riding skills necessary for riding and caring for a horse.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

After completion of this course, the student should be able to:

A. Catch and halter a horse  
B. Know the parts of a horse  
C. Know the parts of a saddle, bridle and be familiar with types of bits  
D. Groom and tack the horse  
E. Mount and sit properly  
F. Ride and control the horse properly at the walk, trot, and canter  
G. Perform a skills exam in the western and hunt seat styles of riding at the walk, trot and canter.

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

A. Catch, halter and lead a horse properly and safely  
B. Groom and tack  
C. Mount and sit correctly  
D. Proper control of the horse both on the ground and mounted.  
E. Proper care of the horse  
F. Riding at a walk, trot, and canter.  
G. Perform skills exam in western saddle  
H. Perform skills exam in hunt saddle
VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

A. Classroom assignments  
B. Films  
C. Videos  
D. Handling  
E. Riding the horse  
F. No riding outside of class without instructor permission. (staff must be on premises)

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

Must have some previous horse handling experience.

VIII. **RESOURCES:**

B. All students are required to wear proper footwear (boots with heels), headgear (approved-helmets) are required per instructor. Halter and lead.  
C. All students are responsible for their own insurance.  
D. All students must have a signed notarized release.

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Evaluated on performance in class attendance, skills exams, and written exams. There will be written exams, riding exams, and periodical quizzes/ per instructor.

Grading scale:  
90 – 100 = A  
80 – 89 = B  
70 – 79 = C  
60 – 69 = D  
Below 60 = E

X. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the *Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin*. Three unexcused absences will lower your grade one letter.
XI. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current *Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin*. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

XII. **TEXT AND REFERENCES:**


XIII. **PREREQUISITES:**

Full time student.
Must have some previous horse handling experience.
Instructor permission.

XIV. **STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director.
XV. CELL PHONE POLICY:

A. NO cell phones will be allowed to be worn in class while riding.
B. Cell phones will be turned off or kept on vibrate at all times.
C. No cell phones will be allowed in class during an exam.
D. All Murray State University School of Agriculture rules regarding cell
   Phone usage will be followed in addition to the above regulations.