

>67,000 horses on the western range lands



Come and see the situation for yourself.

**Spring Break Travel Seminar to
Nevada and California
Information session Thurs Sept 22
5:30pm in Dana 240
Info: Elaine Larsen, Dana 325**

**Mustangs and the American West
National symbol or ecological disaster?**

**Round them up, leave them alone, kill
them, sterilize them, adopt them, train
them?**

How do we decide?

**>45,000 horses in holding facilities
or off range pasture**



Travel Seminar Spring 2017



Mustangs and the American West

A trip to Nevada and California to observe wild mustangs



Course Goals

- Observe wild horse behavior at liberty and in confinement
- Observe the environment shared by mustangs and other range animals
- Learn viewpoints of stakeholders in management of mustangs on and off range
- Learn about the adoption and training of mustangs
- Present observations about a specific question or topic of interest

Dr. Elaine Larsen

Teacher of animal physiology

Horse owner/farmer for 40+ years

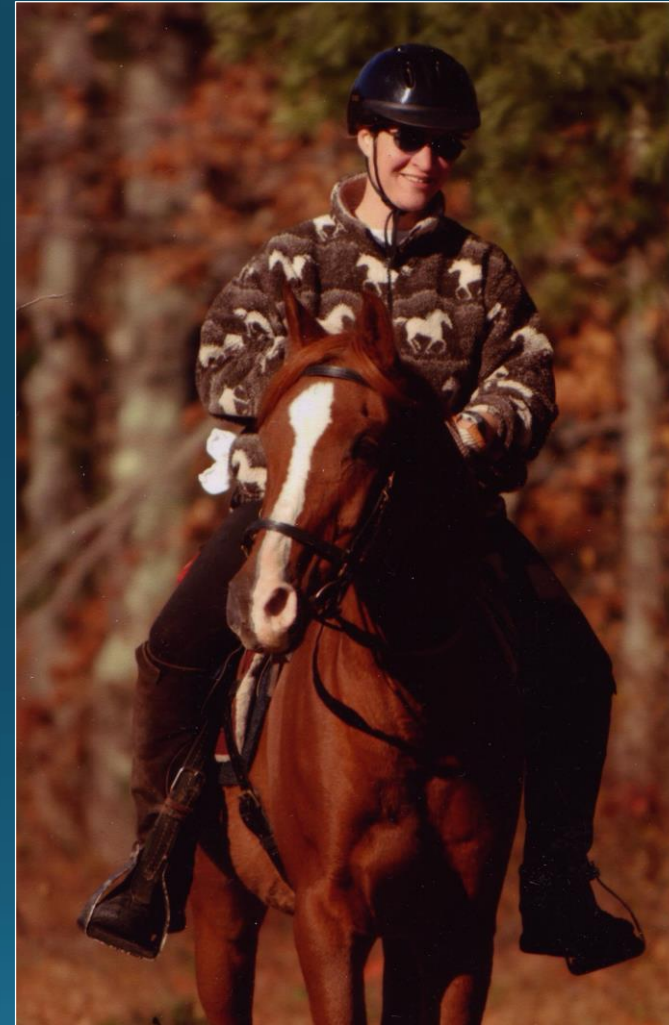
1000+ miles of competitive long distance riding

Competitive trail riding judge

Certified farrier

CPR and first aid trained

Experienced in leading and equipping outdoor education experiences



Schedule overview

- In Feb and March, 3 meetings to review reading assignment, observation criteria, group and behavior expectations, and other course requirements.
- Each student picks a topic as a focus of their observation/inquiry
- Spring break: Travel to Carson City Nevada

In Carson City, NV, Sun-Wed

- Meet with BLM wild horse agent John Axtel
- Explore rangelands around Carson City and Tahoe, observe different environmental zones, attempt to locate and observe mustangs



In Carson City, NV, Sun-Wed

- Visit Palomino Valley Holding Facility
- Observe mustangs in confinement
- Speak with staff about care of mustangs and adoption programs



In Carson City, NV, Sun-Wed

- Visit mustang training program at the NNCC
- Observe during the first weeks of training
- Speak with staff about how the mustangs are trained and adopted



Thurs – travel to CA, visit Mt. Lassen or Twin Peaks HMA



Shingletown, CA, Fri-Sat

- Travel to the Wild Horse Sanctuary, a privately run refuge for mustangs
- Observe horses in pasture and corrals
- Presentations by staff about mustang management and training



Return to Skidmore

- Saturday evening drive to Reno, NV
- Sunday return flight to Albany and van to Skidmore



After spring break trip

- Group meeting to discuss/debrief
- Individuals work on a poster presentation
- At end of semester, each student will have a formal poster presentation at either a session at the end of the semester or at a public event coordinated with Saratoga Co Cooperative Extension and 4H and/or New England Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Network.

What else should I know about the trip?

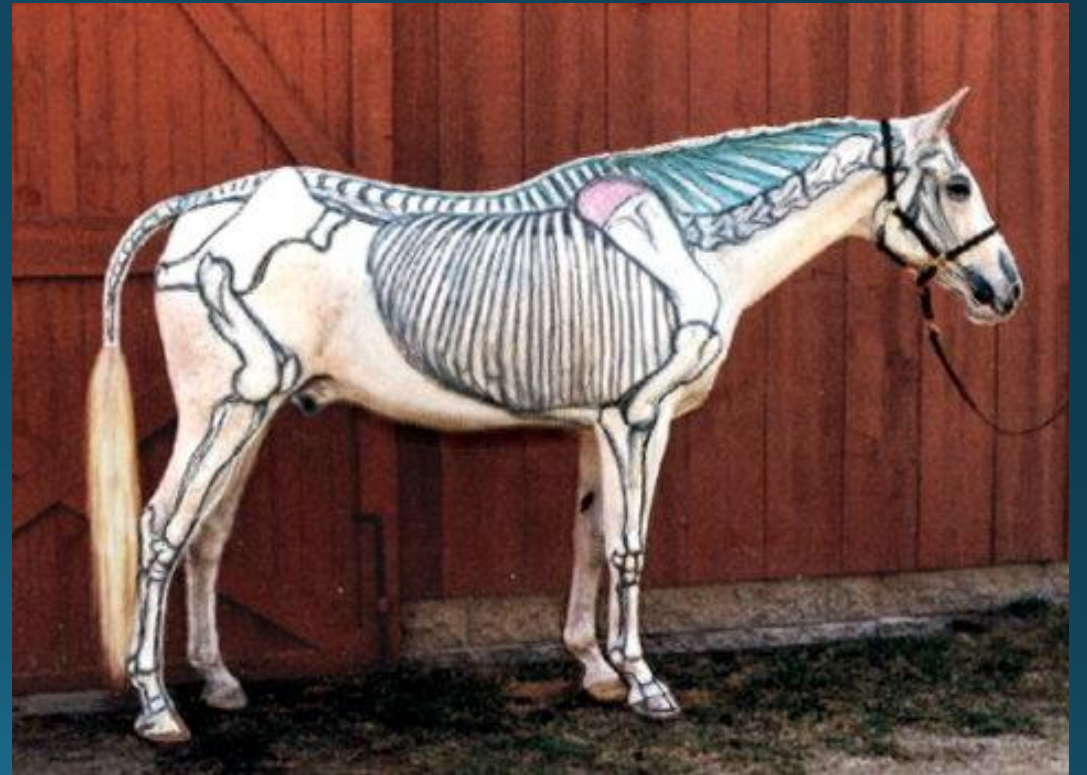
- Overnights will be in hotels or cabins, no camping.
- Dinners will be at restaurants, lunches and breakfasts will mostly be “cold” and/or packed.
- You will not be approaching, interacting with, or handling horses on this trip. Studying the mustangs will be observational only.
- Observations will be made outdoors in March, so may be cold and windy. Making observations may mean long periods outdoors and stationary, or hiking over rough terrain. An equipment list will be provided for your personal clothing and equipment, and students need to be prepared for outdoor work.

Prerequisites for travel seminar:

- Enrollment in BI 152/195 Inside *Equus* OR in BI 316 Animal Behavior in Spring '17 or a previous semester
 - OR equivalent experience in field and/or equine studies
 - Overall GPA greater than or equal to 3.0
 - Application and permission of instructor
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- Previous experience with animals or horses is NOT required

BI 152/195 Inside *Equus*

- 4 credit course (lecture and lab) on animal physiology and behavior using the horse as a model
- Topics will include nutrition, genetics, behavior, and exercise physiology
- Does not give biology credit for bio majors
- Satisfies Natural Science requirement for college
- Satisfies QR2





Questions?