COMMON COURSE OUTLINE:  Course discipline/number/title:  EQSC 1110: Western Horsemanship

A.  CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1.  Credits: 3
2.  Hours/Week: 2 hours lecture, plus 2 hours lab per week
3.  Prerequisites (Course discipline/number):  Must be able to ride and control a horse at a walk, jog, and lope in a balanced position and mount from the ground. Be able to lift 50 lbs.
4.  Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None
5.  MnTC Goals (if any): NA

This course introduces the student to theory of western horsemanship and applicability to riding skills. Students will learn correct western position while improving control of the horse and use of the aids. The focus is on developing safe, confident riders who are secure in the saddle. Given the intensity of this course, it is required that students be able to proficiently ride a horse at a walk, trot and lope prior to the start of the course. Students also need to be able to lift 50 lbs and mount from the ground. This will be tested in the first week of the semester. RECOMMENDED ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE: Must be able to ride and control a horse at a walk, jog, and lope in a balanced position and mount from the ground. Be able to lift 50 lbs.

B.  DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): January, 2013

C.  OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1.  Introduction to the stock seat—history, background and uses
2.  Safety considerations while riding
3.  Fundamentals of a correct position
4.  Four natural aids and their uses
5.  Mechanics of the three gaits
6.  Review of grooming, tacking, mounting/dismounting
7.  Emergency dismount and one-rein stop
8.  Achieving quality gaits
9.  Turns on forehand and haunches
10.  Leg yielding
11.  Equipment and tack

D.  LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1.  Understand basic riding theory.
2.  Demonstrate correct stock seat position.
3.  Explain the four natural aids and demonstrate their use.
4.  Handle, groom, tack and untack a horse properly and safely.
5.  Mount and dismount properly.
6.  Ride safely and considerately in a group.
7.  Ride with security and control.
8.  Perform halts, backing, and transitions between gaits.
9.  Ride a simple horsemanship pattern.
10.  Demonstrate turns on forehand, haunches, and leg yields
11.  Describe tack and equipment used in western horsemanship.

E.  LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): NA

F.  METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1.  Reports, quizzes, tests
2.  Practical demonstrations (ridden tests)
3.  Oral discussion and question/answer sessions
4.  Course assignments
5.  Attendance
G. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Civic Responsibility
- Personal/Professional Accountability
- Global Awareness/Diversity
- Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):
Working with horses involves inherent risks which the student assumes while enrolled in the course. This course may require an additional activity fee. The course is conducted at the stable and the student will be expected to wear suitable riding attire including helmets and provide his/her own transportation.