STUDY GUIDE FOR 1207 – FARRIER SCIENCE

TEXT: “Well-Shod” by Don Baskins; “Shoeing: A Necessary Evil?” By Hiltrud Strasser
RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED:
The most widely used farrier training textbook, considered the industry standard for farriers is The Principles of Horseshoeing co-authored by Doug Butler, PhD, CJF, FWCF – this book is not required, but recommended to gain a broad understanding of basic farrier education.

MEDIA: None Required

GETTING STARTED:
Print out this document and place it in the appropriate section of your notebook.
Familiarize yourself with the Quia class page.
Sign into your discussion group. You will receive an approval email once you have been verified as an active student of this class.

As you run across terms you are not familiar with, go out on the web or to a dictionary and look it up. Many aspects of the information presented are not automatically explained. If you must dig for information, search for understanding, the knowledge you gain will “stick” with you much better than if someone just tell you the answer. If you get stuck, go to your group. Chances are that someone there has already had the same problem and can guide you.

NOTE: When presenting to your group, be prepared to back up your argument or claim with facts or experience, otherwise preface your comments with a statement that lets others know that what you are writing is your theory, or your opinion, or that you are simply thinking out loud.

Grading:
An overall score of 85 points or greater is needed to pass the class.

ESA PREMISE: Shoes are not necessary for horses if the horse is managed in a way that is according to its nature and not used beyond the limits of its innate physical ability. If, however, the horse is pushed to the extremes of its physical ability and managed in unnatural ways, then shoes serve to hold the foot together so the owner can continue to use the horse.
Shoes are necessary to alter the gaits of horses in ways that are unnatural, but appealing to people, example: Big Lick Walking Horses.

Some of the text presented in this class are written by working farriers. The intention is for you to understand their perspective as if you were a shoeing farrier student. In this way, you will be better able to understand what many believe and how it influences common farrier practices. This should then enable you to discern the differences between the typical farrier view and the natural hoof care practitioner view. It should also enable you to engage in discussion with a shoeing farrier from a position of understanding of, not only terminology, but also common farrier procedure and practices.
SUGGESTED PROGRESSION (You can check ☑️ as you go if you wish):

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION
☐ Study the documents in your group’s “Files” section in the folder titled “Introduction”
☐ Study the articles and watch the videos in your group’s “Links” section in the folder titled “Introduction”
☐ Read Chapter I (Preface) and Chapter II in “Shoeing: A Necessary Evil?” By Hiltrud Strasser
☐ Take Quiz #1 – Introduction to Farriery in your Quia class page

ASSIGNMENT
☐ Do additional research on the origins and development of the farrier trade and discuss your findings with your group.
☐ Search for Farrier Schools and take a look at the curriculum offered. Discuss the scope of content and how you believe it will effect graduate preparedness to meet the needs of horses in the field.

SECTION II - BASICS OF SHOEING
☐ Study chapters 3 through 6 in the book “Well-Shod” by Don Baskins as well as pages 100-103 and pages 110-111 in chapter 7 focusing on the types of shoes.
☐ Read the articles and watch the videos in your group “Links” section, in the folder titled “Basics of Shoeing.”
☐ Go through the power point presentation on “Tools of the Trade” on your Quia class page.
☐ Play the games “Tools of the Trade” and “Shoes” on you Quia class page in the “Activities” section.
☐ Take Quiz #2 - Basics of Shoeing in your Quia class page

ASSIGNMENT
☐ Search other farrier supply site online for more examples of various shoes. Research what each type of shoe is meant to do for the horse. Post any unusual shoes for the group to check out, explore those already posted and discuss your impressions.

CORRECTIVE SHOEING
☐ Study chapters 7 through 9 in the book “Well-Shod” by Don Baskins
☐ Study the book “Shoeing: A Necessary Evil?” By Hiltrud Strasser
☐ Study the articles and watch the videos in your group “Links” section, in the folder titled “Corrective Shoeing”
☐ Take Quiz #3 – Corrective Shoeing in your Quia class page
METHODS AND PRACTICES

- Study the articles in your group “Links” section and “Files” section, in the folder titled “Methods and Practices”
- Study the articles in the group’s “Links” folder titled “Farriers on Horse Handling”
- Study chapter 2 “Horse Handling Tips” in the book “Well-Shod” by Don Baskins.
- Take Quiz #4 – Methods and Practices in your Quia class page

THE GREAT DEBATE – TO SHOE OR NOT TO SHOE??

- Study the articles in your group “Files” section and “Links” section, in the folders titled “The Great Debate”
- Visit the Farriers Helping Owners Forum in your group “Links” section, in the folder titled “The Great Debate.” This is a closed forum, no longer accepting posts but you can read past discussions
- Visit the forum titled “Farriers Helping Horse Owners - Maintain Horses Barefoot” in your group “Links” section, in the folder titled “The Great Debate.” Explore some of the discussions involving farriers and their views on barefoot horses and the “barefoot movement” in general. Do not post, simply search topics and read what is already posted.
- Take Quiz #5 – The Great Debate in your Quia class page.

ASSIGNMENT

- Observe the types of interactions between farriers and owners/trimmers advocating barefoot who are posting on the above forums. Choose one example (omit names) and write your overall impression of each side’s presentation to the other side, as well as how you might have handled the conversation and present to your group for discussion.

- **FUZZY LOGIC?** Critically evaluate and present to your group the validity of these common farrier arguments against natural hoof care.
  - The foot has been bred off the domestic horse
  - Ours are not wild horses, therefore the wild horse is not a valid model for the care of domestic horses.
  - Wild horses are not ridden, which is why they do not need shoes.
  - The working horse must wear shoes or the rate of wear will exceed the rate of growth in the hoof and ruin the horse.
☐ Take the Final exam ONLY WHEN YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE READY. There is a fee to retake any Final exam. Email us at finals@equinesciencesacademy.com and let us know your name, and the final you wish to take and you will be contacted with further information.

This is an "open book" test. You may use whatever resources you need to answer the questions.

We strongly recommend that you set aside several hours to complete the exam without interruption. There is no “save as you go” feature in Quia as of yet. Should your session time out, you may loose what you have already written.

The final exam is graded by the instructors. You will not receive an immediate score. You will be notified by email of your final grade and whether or not you have successfully completed the course.

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Extra credit!
Create a document that outlines the differences between the basic precepts of conventional farrier hoof care and your current understanding of barefoot/natural hoof care. This can be whatever format you choose, but it should be easy to reproduce. Develop the document with a mind to the finished product serving as a handout to your customers or interested persons considering going barefoot. As such you should be sure that you list facts rather than conjecture and be prepared to support what you say should someone out in the field challenge what you have written.

If you are new to hoof care, you will likely not want to pass this around just yet. You will most certain be modifying your information as you continue you studies.

Any reasonable effort could earn you an extra 5 points on your final grade!

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Last but not least! Please complete the “Evaluation Form” link to complete the short course evaluation form. This is not a requirement, but your feedback is very important to us and to the continual improvement of the courses for which we strive! Thank you!