NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE – Spring 2026

AH 441 Dental Procedures– 1.5 (2-0-1.5) 42 Hours for 12 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Jori Grimm, RVT Kyla Dahms, RVT	**PHONE:**	780-835-6622 780-835-6707 (Office)
OFFICE:	AS 138 AS 141	**E-MAIL:**	jgrimm@nwpolytech.ca kdahms@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	As posted or please make an appointment.		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Students are expected to use proper dental terminology and identify normal tooth anatomy, function, eruption and dental formula. Students learn to instruct clients on dental home care procedures. Common dental problems and diseases are covered with emphasis on small animal and equine patients. Proper use, care and maintenance of dental equipment is covered. Principles of dental radiography are discussed. Proficiency in basic dental prophylaxis will be developed using live animals and cadavers.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

- Must be registered in the NWP Veterinary Technology Program
- AH141, AH24, AH340, AH342, AH343, AH345, and AH348

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REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- *Optional: Steven E. Holmstrom, Veterinary Dentistry-A Team Approach Third Addition, 2019*
- *Optional: Mosby's Veterinary PDQ*
- *McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians,* Ninth or tenth Edition
- ***Computer/Tablet or device with stable internet and video chat capabilities.***

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Lecture and lab. High Flex. This course is delivered in-person and may be delivered remotely via Zoom. Quizzes, midterm and final exams will occur in-person. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. **Dental Instruments.** Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:
   - Identify and use common hand instruments used in small animal dentistry.
   - Identify and use power instruments used in small animal dentistry.
   - Discuss and perform maintenance on hand instruments and power instruments.

B. **Oral Anatomy of Dogs and Cats.** Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:
   - Define and discuss anatomical structures of the canine and feline mouth.
   - Discuss and apply dental numbering systems
   - Define and discuss dental abnormalities

C. **Dental COHAT.** Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:
   - Describe steps in performing a dental prophylaxis on the canine and feline patient.
   - Apply theory of dental prophylaxis to the canine and feline patient.
   - Utilize a dental chart.
   - Discuss personal and patient safety.
   - Discuss home care of the canine and feline dental patient.

D. **Dental Radiography.** Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:
   - Discuss and apply dental radiology to the canine and feline patient.

E. **Equine & Bovine Dentistry.** Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:
   - Discuss dentistry in the Equine patient
   - Discuss dentistry in the Bovine Patient

F. **Dentistry in Rabbits and Rodents**. Upon completion of this unit, students will be to:

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- Discuss dentistry in Rabbits
- Discuss dentistry in Rodents

G. **Dental Local Anesthesia.** Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Define and discuss applications of common nerve blocks in the canine and feline patient.

DENTAL LABS:

Small animal dental labs will implement hands on application of knowledge learned from lecture including but not limited to: Dental instrument identification and use, use and care of power instruments, oral anatomy and tooth identification, dental COHAT, charting, dental radiography, dental local anesthesia and more.
Skills will be practiced over 4-5 labs.
A practical evaluation will be in the final lab to assess the practical application of these skills and theory learned in both lecture and labs.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page http://www.transferalberta.ca.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

A passing grade in the course is a minimum of 60%. Quizzes can be held without prior notification. Deductions are as per the instructor's discretion. All quizzes, midterms and final exams are to be written in person in the designated area outlined by your instructor.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59

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B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE HAS TO BE 2.0 OR HIGHER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

Mark Distribution	
A. Lecture Assignments	10%
B. Lecture Quizzes	20%
C. Lecture Midterm	15%
D. Lecture/Lab Final Exam	30% Lecture/25% Lab
	100%

*A minimum of 60% must be obtained in order to successfully pass AH 441.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

See course objectives for tentative timeline.

See posted lab schedule.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Enrolment at NWP assumes that the student will become a responsible citizen of the Institute. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, take pride in and assist in the maintenance and preservation of Institute property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting instructor expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

Veterinary Technology Program Attendance & Conduct Summary

- **Zero Tolerance for Impairment:** Attending labs, exams/quizzes, lectures, or guest speaker events under the influence of alcohol or impairing substances (including certain medications) is strictly prohibited. Violations result in unexcused absences and a mark of zero.
- **Mandatory Attendance:** Attendance is required for all exams, guest speakers and labs. Arriving late to labs, lectures, quizzes/exams will be considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences (at the instructor's discretion) result in:
    - **5% deduction** from the final course grade (labs/guest speakers)
- **Absence Approval:** Absences must be approved in advance or as soon as possible afterward with valid written documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Employment conflicts are not considered valid excuses.

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- **Make-Up Policy:** Labs, lectures, and guest speakers cannot be made up. Missed assessments due to unexcused absences receive a grade of zero. Excused absences do not exempt students from required work or deadlines.
- **Exam Conduct:** No electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, headphones, tablets etc) are permitted during exams or evaluations. Having one present will result in immediate dismissal and a grade of 0%.
- **Further Guidelines:**
    - Spelling errors in exams/quizzes, assignments and medical records will results in a 0.5% deduction for each occurrence.
    - All handwritten materials that are submitted to the instructor must be using blue or black pen, no white out and using appropriate medical corrections.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

NWP servers may be monitored. Student accounts are visible via ABTutor and student activity on NWP networks may be monitored during supervised exams and/or anytime students are on NWP networks. The collection of and access to the personal information listed above as permitted by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information

Attendance is mandatory at all laboratory sessions; valid reason for absence is required or it will result in 5% deduction off the final grade for the course.
For your safety, the safety of others and the safety of the animals there will be zero tolerance of anyone showing up for the laboratory sessions under the influence of alcohol or other medications which may cause physical impairment or disruptive behavior.
Any student wishing to see a marked quiz or midterm must make an appointment with the instructor to view or go over.
Deductions for AH 441 are based on the below deduction guideline. Any deductions that accumulate throughout this course will be taken off the final grade achieved in AH 441.

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Pass Requirements and Deductions for Veterinary Technology Program

Another copy of this table is located in your competency checklist booklet

Reason	Deduction
Absent from Lab or Lab and Clinic with no notification (no valid excuse). Refer to course outline	8% first offence, 10% for second and following offences.
Excused from Lab/Clinic (attitude, affected judgment, etc)	5-10%
Breach of Code of Conduct or Academic Guidelines	1-5% or incomplete for the course
Sanitation Lapse	0.5%-1% per lapse in procedure
Sanitation no show (Outside of Clinic)	5% per sanitation session
Inappropriate Attire	0.5%
Late for Clinic less than 15 minutes	1%
Late for Clinic 15-45 minutes	5% partial day increase to 10% after 1pm
Medical record not completed	2%
Medical record completed improperly	0.5%
Log books not completed	2%
Poor attitude (if not leading to being excused)	3%
Inappropriate communication	3%
Failure to prep patient for next day	10%
Feeding of animal for surgery that day	5%
This is not a limiting list. Additional deductions may be possible and are at the discretion of the supervisor.	0.5-5%
Missed food/water/litter/kennel sanitation	5%
Missed Treatment	3%
Unprepared for lab (worksheets, workstations, required readings)	1-3%
Inappropriate behaviour or care resulting in unethical treatment of animal(s) (physical abuse, neglect of animal husbandry, etc).	Incomplete in course

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