

Perspectives on Human-Animal Relations
Experimental College, Tufts University
EXP-0040-F
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Thursday, 6-8:30 PM
Location TBD
Office Hours: by appt.

Course Description: The field of “animal studies” is a new academic domain with many names, definitions, and areas of concentration. Interdisciplinary work in the field engages with a wide range of disciplines, from the humanities through the social and ‘hard’ sciences. Some areas of inquiry focus on animals in literature or film, while others look at nonhuman animals through the lenses of feminist and queer theory. A range of other disciplines, from anthropology and history to biology and geography, are all emerging as critical components of the field. This course focuses on normative ethics, animal cognition, animal law, public policy, and the way we interact with animals as: companions, wild or free-roaming animals, food, entertainment, and research subjects.

We will be engaging with material from various disciplines—which can be challenging at times, given the specialized jargon often found in various disciplinary texts—but our focus will be on the following question: how does the structure of the human-nonhuman animal relationship inform public policies on issues impacting animals?

In a course of this nature, it is disingenuous to feign neutrality when it comes to animal-advocacy based research, as the decisions being debated are precisely those about which animal advocacy organizations and other interests group debate. Nonetheless, every effort will be made to understand as many perspectives as possible; this is not ‘a course about animal rights’, and the views in favor of using animals in food production or biomedical research will be presented, as will those opposed and some in between. You are expected to be respectful of any opinions presented, even—or especially—if they are very different from your own.

Course Wiki: The website for the course is animaethics.pbworks.com

Required Texts: you must have the following text in class as needed. I recommend that you buy these texts from a used online site like www.abebooks.com. If you do so, however, be sure to buy the books with enough advanced notice to have them when the course begins. Other course readings will be provided online at the pbworks site.

- Armstrong, Susan J. and Richard G. Botzler, eds. *The Animal Ethics Reader*, 2nd edition. Routledge: New York, 2008.
- Kalof, Linda and Amy Fitzgerald, eds. *The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Texts*. Berg: New York, 2007

Grading

- 1st Short Paper (and in-class exercise): NGO Case Study (20%)
 - Written assignment (15%)
 - Informal class presentation (5%)
- 2nd Short Paper: Reading Response (20%)
- Research Paper (40%)
 - Outline (5%)
 - Rough Draft (5%)
 - Final Draft (30%)
- Participation (20%)
 - 20% of this grade will be based on student uploads to the pbworks website (2% each, due 2 hours before class, but preferably the evening prior. There are eleven upload options—one per week, excepting the session on NGOs—and you need to do ten of them)
 - Although there is no specific grade for in-class participation, active and productive participation will help if your final grade is hovering between two grades; the inverse, regarding poor participation, is also true.

Note on Papers: Be sure to carefully check your work for spelling errors and grammatical flow. You can rewrite your papers you are dissatisfied with your grade, and I will average the two grades. I will also dock your grade by a third of a letter grade for every unexcused calendar day (*not* class day) a paper is overdue.

Formatting guidelines: This information will be provided again when we discuss writing assignments, but here is the gist of my formatting requirements: have an engaging title, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, double spaced, no spaces between paragraphs, justified, with page numbers, parenthetical citations and bibliography. Also: any citations longer than 3 lines should be indented on both sides, 10-pt font, single spaced, and without quotation marks.

NGO Analysis Guidelines: Additional details on this assignment will be provide in class, but the 3-5 page written assignment should: pick a Non-Governmental Organization that is a relevant actor in an animal protection issue (You're welcome to pick either an animal advocacy organization like the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), a livestock trade group like the Animal Ag Alliance (AAA), or a pro-biomedical research group like the Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR). Your paper should, at the very least, answer the following questions: Who is their audience? What are their core subjects? What tactics do they use? What kind of a budget do they have, and how do they get their money? Do you think they're an effective organization? Why or why not?

Reading Response Guidelines: Select two related works we've read, and compare and contrast their strengths and weaknesses. This assignment should demonstrate both an understanding of the authors' key ideas and some critiques of their potential shortcomings. This paper should be 4-6 pages long; clarity is valued over length. In essence, what I am looking for is a balance between demonstrating that you've thoroughly read the works in question (and aren't just regurgitating the class notes) and an engagement with your critical views on those works—too much of your opinion and I can't tell that you've done the reading, and too much outlining the text and I don't get any sense that you've grappled critically with the text at all.

Research Paper Guidelines: Full guidelines will be distributed in class. Generally, though, this paper should address one or more of the issues we discuss in class, but should do so in greater detail. I will be soliciting topics throughout the course, and you will have to submit an outline and a rough draft, both of which will be graded on an all-or-nothing basis. Unless we agree on a different format, your paper has to be 12-15 pages long, and you need to have at least 15 unique sources. (**Alternate format:** If you would prefer to engage in a hands-on final project with a less research-oriented written component, I am happy to discuss this option. We will discuss this more thoroughly in class. Less traditional formats—including fictional works, grant proposals, and the like—would also be welcome, but *only* if you approach me well in advance.)

Student Upload Guidelines: You are expected to upload a relevant link, video, or other media source with a comment relating the ideas of the thinkers we are discussing to a pertinent current issue. The mechanism for logging on to the pbworks site will be explained in class. If, however, you are ever unable to upload a link to the website, just send me your link and comment and I will upload them for you. Unless I specify otherwise, the links should be related to the ideas covered in any class since the previous upload. If possible, you should also try to leave a comment on at least a few other students' posts throughout the semester—while not officially graded, I will consider giving you extra credit if you post a lot of comments. (**Alternate format:** if, instead of posting to the pbworks site, you would like to set up your own blog on a related topic and update it weekly, that would be fine with me. See my blog, at ikesharpless.com, for an example of a similar format.)

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me by email, phone, or in person. I would much prefer to clarify a small confusion than be forced to give you a failing grade in the class.

Course Outline

nota bene – reading assignments are subject to revision anytime up to the class prior to their assignment. If you miss a class, be sure to verify the next day’s readings by checking the pbworks website. I may add or remove some readings on a day-to-day basis, so be sure to pay attention in class. Also be sure to check the website regularly for supplemental online reading and other media.

Thur. Sept. 8 – Introductions, Course Policies, Pbworks Tutorial, Personal Archeologies

- Come to class prepared to discuss your formative experiences with nonhuman animals

Thur. Sept. 15 – The Animals we Know: Animals as Companions

- Armstrong and Botzler (hereafter Armstrong), Part Nine: Animal Companions (542-583)
 - Bernard E. Rollin and Michael D. H. Rollin, “Dogmaticisms and Catechisms: Ethics and Companion Animals” (546-550)
 - Clare Palmer, “Killing Animals in Animal Shelters” (570-578)
- Yi-Fu Tuan, “Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection” (Kalof and Fitzgerald, hereafter Kalof)
- First pbworks upload

Thur. Sept. 22 – Animals as Ethical Subjects

- Tom Regan, “The Case for Animal Rights” (Armstrong 19-26)
- Peter Singer, “Practical Ethics” (Armstrong 36-46)
- Carl Cohen, “Reply to Tom Regan” (Armstrong 26-29)
- R.G. Frey, “Rights, Interests, Desires and Beliefs” (Armstrong 55-58)
- Martha Nussbaum, “The Moral Status of Animals” (Kalof 30-36)
- Second pbworks upload

Thur. Sept. 29 – Introducing Public Policy and NGO Case Study in-class exercise

- Deborah Stone, “Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas” (available on the pbworks wiki, hereafter pbworks)
- Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)
- Sharpless et al, “Framing PETA and McDonald's” (pbworks)
- Use the provided upload space to post the website of the organization you'll be discussing, any relevant links, and a paragraph with your response to the questions listed above.
- NGO Case study due

Thur. Oct. 6 – Animal Consciousness (Focus on Primates and Cetaceans)

- **n.b.: Guest lecture or rescheduling necessary on this date: I'll be in DC. Info forthcoming**
- Daniel Dennett, “Animal Consciousness: What Matters and Why” (Armstrong 113-119)
- Marian Stamp Dawkins, “Animal Minds and Animal Emotions” (Armstrong 120-125)

- Bernard E. Rollin, “Animal Pain” (Armstrong 135-140)
- Marc Bekoff, “Wild Justice and Fair Play” (Kalof 72-90)
- Third pbworks upload

Thur. Oct. 13 – Wild Animals: Focus on Human-Wildlife Conflicts and Hunting

- J. Baird Callicott, “The Philosophical Value of Wildlife” (Armstrong 439-443)
- Dale Peterson, “To Eat the Laughing Animal” (Armstrong 485-489)
- Marti Kheel, “The Killing Game: An Ecofeminist Critique” (Armstrong 454-463)
- Alastair S. Gunn, “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” (Armstrong 464-473)
- Matt Cartmill, “Hunting and Humanity in Western Thought” (Kalof 237)
- Fourth pbworks upload

Thur. Oct. 20 – Animals as Food, 1: Livestock Agriculture and the Global Food System

- David DeGrazia, “Meat Eating” (Armstrong 219-224)
- Temple Grandin, “Thinking Like Animals” and “A Major Change” (Armstrong 225-231)
- Michael Appleby, “Food Prices and Animal Welfare” (Armstrong 232-235)
- Animal Agriculture Alliance, “Animal Agriculture: Myths and Facts” (Armstrong 236-242)
- Carol Adams, “The Sexual Politics of Meat” (Kalof 171-181)
- Michael Pollan, "Farmer in Chief": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?_r=1
- "The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-Intellectuals": http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/article_print
- Fifth pbworks upload
- Reading response due

Thur. Oct. 27 – Animals as Food, 2: Focus on Diet and Food Choices

- Steven L. Davis, “The Least Harm Principle May Require That Humans Consume a Diet Containing Large Herbivores, not a Vegan Diet” (Armstrong 243-247)
- James Rachels, “The Basic Argument for Vegetarianism” (Armstrong 260-267)
- Kathryn Paxton George, “A Paradox of Ethical Vegetarianism: Unfairness to Women and Children” (Armstrong 274-280)
- David Nibert, “The Promotion of “Meat” and its Consequences” (Kalof 182-189)
- Research paper outline due
- Sixth pbworks upload

Thur. Nov. 3 - Animals as Experimental Subjects

- David DeGrazia, “The Ethics of Animal Research” (Armstrong 308-316)
- Baruch Brody, “Defending Animal Research” (Armstrong 317-325)

- F. Barbara Orlans, “Ethical Themes of National Regulations Governing Animal Experiments: An International Perspective” (Armstrong 334-341)
- Lynda Birke, “Into the Laboratory” (Kalof 323-335)
- supplemental readings to be provided on pbworks site
- Seventh pbworks upload

Thur. Nov. 10 – Animals in Education and Entertainment (Focus on Zoos)

- Randall L. Eaton, “Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity” (Armstrong 497-500)
- Dale Jamieson, “Against Zoos” (Armstrong 507-512)
- Michael Hutchins *et al*, “In Defense of Zoos and Aquariums” (Armstrong 513-521)
- Randy Malamud, “Zoo Spectatorship” (Kalof 219-236)
- Eighth pbworks upload

Thur. Nov. 17 – Animals as Symbols

- John Berger, “Why Look at Animals” (Kalof 251-261)
- Boria Sax, “Animals as Tradition” (Kalof 270-277)
- Claude Lèvi-Strauss, “The Totemic Illusion” (Kalof 262-269)
- Final paper rough draft due
- Ninth pbworks upload

Thur. Dec. 1 - Animal Law

- Steven Wise, “A Great Shout: Legal Rights for Great Apes” (Armstrong 589-595)
- Richard Posner, “Book Review of *Rattling the Cage*” (Armstrong 596-600)
- Richard Epstein, “The Dangerous Claims of the Animal Rights Movement” (Armstrong 601-604)
- Selected passages from key legal cases (pbworks)
- Tenth pbworks upload

Thur. Dec. 8 – Two Legal Case Studies: The ESA / Navy Sonar and Cetaceans

- Short 'ESA basics' crib sheet from the US FWS (pbworks)
- Schwartz, “The Performance of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)
- [Reread, skim if needed] Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the ESA” (pbworks)
- [optional] Sharpless, “Winter v. NRDC” (pbworks)
- [dense – skim if needed] Parsons *et al*, “Navy Sonar and Cetaceans” (pbworks)
- Stocker, “Ocean Bioacoustics, Human-Generated Noise and Ocean Policy” (pbworks)
- Eleventh pbworks upload