L382-TH Zoo Ontologies
Mikita Brottman, Ph.D
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L 382-TH B 460    Class size: 25
M 9:00 am - 11:45 am

Course Description
This is a junior theory course in which students will engage with the emerging field of animal studies. We will consider the role played by non-humans in the field of cultural studies, social theory, philosophy and literature. In particular, we will study the history of animal representations in the Western literary tradition, in film, and in popular culture. We will also consider the social and cultural implications of pet-keeping, dog shows, animal sacrifice, scientific experimentation, taxidermy, hunting, fur-wearing and meat-eating. We will study recent films, short stories, and cultural events that reveal how our interaction with non-human animals shapes our understanding of the human. All these texts will discuss non-human animals, whether as symbols, competitors, allies in the human struggle for existence, fellow creatures with acknowledged moral standing, or the subjects of suffering. We will consider what these varied representations of animals can tell us about the different human voices that produced them. We will also think about our own roles as animals, and our relationship with non-human animals in aesthetic, activist, environmental and biological contexts. The weekly readings will help us to consider the role of scientific authority, and an exploration of the species boundary.

Course Grading
In the first class, we will draw lots for presentation dates. Each student will give a presentation on the week's readings. The presentation will be 10-20 minutes long, and will count for 20% of the final grade. There will be two multiple-choice quizzes, each worth 20%, and a final in-class written exam worth 40%.

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<td>2 Quizzes:</td>
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<td>Presentation:</td>
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<td>90-95= A</td>
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<td>86-90= A-</td>
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<td>70-75= B-</td>
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**Required Reading**
Other texts available as weblinks.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Animals as Philosophical and Ethical Subjects**
(1) August 30
From *The Animals Reader*:
1. Aristotle, *The History of Animals*
2. Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*

(2) September 6
From *The Animals Reader*:
Guest Speaker (by Skype): Dr. David Priestman, Oxford University, Pro-Test

**Animals as Reflexive Thinkers**
(3) September 13
From *The Animals Reader*:
8. Michel de Montaigne, *An Apology for Raymond Sebond*
9. Rene Descartes, *From the Letters of 1646 and 1649*
Franz Kafka, *A Report for an Academy* (1917)

(4) September 20
From *The Animals Reader*:
10. Clinton R. Sanders and Arnold Arluke, *Speaking for Dogs*
Movie Screening: *Year of the Dog* (Mike White, 2007)
Quiz

(5) September 27
From *The Animals Reader*:
12. Jeffrey Mousaieff Masson and Susan McCarthy, *Grief, Sadness and the Bones of Elephants*
George Orwell, *Shooting an Elephant* (1936)

**Animals as Domesticates: Pets and Food**
(6) October 4
From *The Animals Reader*:
16. Yi-Fu Tuan, *Animal Pets, Cruelty and Affection*
Saki (H.H. Munro), *Sredni Vashtar*
Clip: *Sredni Vashtar*
(7) October 11
From *The Animals Reader*:
17. Plutarch, *The Eating of Flesh*
20. David Nibert, *The Promotion of "Meat" and its Consequences*
Clip: *Heaven's Gate*, Errol Morris

*Fall Break*

**Animals as Spectacle and Sport**
(8) October 25: Quiz

(10) November 1
From *The Animals Reader*:
23. Rhonda Evans et al, *Dogfighting: Symbolic Expression and Validation of Masculinity*
Stevie Smith, *The Zoo* (1983)

**Animals as Symbols**
(11) November 8
From *The Animals Reader*:
Ted Hughes, *The Thought Fox*

(12) November 15
From *The Animals Reader*:
28. Boria Sax, *Animals as Tradition*
Edgar Allan Poe, *The Black Cat*
Rainer Maria Rilke, "*The Panther*" (1902)

(13) November 22
From *The Animals Reader*:

(14) November 29
Movie: Film: *Koko the Talking Gorilla* (Barbet Schroeder, 1978)

(15) December 6
From *The Animals Reader*:
*Julio Cortazar, Axolotl*
(16) December 13: In-class Exam!!