Course Description: The field of “animal studies” is a new academic field with many names, definitions, and areas of concentration. Interdisciplinary work in the field of animal studies engages with a wide range of academic disciplines spanning from the humanities through the social and ‘hard’ sciences. Some areas of inquiry focus on ‘animals and literature’ while others look at nonhuman animals through the lenses of feminist or queer theory. A range of other disciplines, from anthropology and history to biology and geography, are all emerging as critical components of the field.

We will also be engaging with material from a range of 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 order to properly answer this question, we will draw heavily on philosophical and other texts that examine the lives and interests of nonhuman animals in their own right.

In a course of this nature, it is more often than not disingenuous to feign neutrality when it comes to animal-advocacy based research. This is especially true in a course about animals and public policy, where the decisions being debated and made are precisely those decisions about which animal welfare organizations and other interests group litigate and otherwise negotiate. 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 ikesharpless.pbworks.com

Required Texts: you must have the following texts 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.

**Optional Texts**

**Grading**
• Short Paper (20%)
• Two unannounced reading quizzes (5% each)
• Final Paper (40%)
  o Outline (5%)
  o Rough Draft (5%)
  o Final Draft (30%)
• Participation (30%)
  o 10% of this grade will be based on in-class participation
  o 20% of this grade will be based on student uploads to the pbworks website (10 of 11 possible uploads required, 2% each. The uploads will be due every Thursday except for the first day of class and Oct. 14, but you should make an effort to post a link by no later than Wed. evening)
• Attendance (variable, as much as -20%)
  o I will take attendance each class. Two unexcused absences throughout the course will be permitted, but each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by a third of a letter.

**Note on Late Papers:** Be sure to carefully check your work for spelling errors and grammatical flow. You can rewrite your short paper if 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.

**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 (i.e., the most recent two or three class sessions). 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.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what does and does not constitute plagiarism, refer first to the UMass Lowell Undergraduate Catalogue under ‘Academic Integrity’. If you have further questions, 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.

Citation Policy: Use whichever standard citation format works for you (i.e., MLA, Chicago, etc.), but use the same throughout your work and be sure that all relevant information is included. Because this is a high-level research seminar, you will be expected to cite your sources properly. Note: while useful for reference, Wikipedia is not a valid citation source.

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.

Thur. Sept. 2 – Introductions, Course Policies, and Pbworks Tutorial

Tues. Sept. 7 – Personal Archaeologies
  • Come to class prepared to discuss your formative experiences with nonhuman animals

Thur. Sept. 9 – The Animals we Know: Animals as Companions
  • Armstrong and Botzler (hereafter Armstrong), Part Nine: Animal Companions (542-583)
    o Clare Palmer, “Killing Animals in Animal Shelters” (570-578)
  • [Optional] Yi-Fu Tuan, “Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection” (Kalof and Fitzgerald, hereafter Kalof)
  • First pbworks upload

Tues. Sept. 14 – Introducing Public Policy
  • Deborah Stone, “Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas” (pbworks)
  • Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)
Thur. Sept. 16 – Student Exercise on animal advocacy NGOs
- Come to class prepared to answer the following questions about a relevant NGO's website: 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?
- Second pbworks upload [use the upload space to post the website of the organization you'll be discussing, any relevant links, and a paragraph with your response to the above questions]
- Read relevant paper I co-wrote, “Framing PETA and McDonald's” (pbworks)

Tues. Sept. 21 – Animals as Ethical Subjects, day 1: Historical Overview
- Taylor: preface, ch. 1, and ch. 2 (3-56)

Thur. Sept. 23 – Animals as Ethical Subjects, day 2: Focus on Speciesism
- Taylor, ch. 3: “Do Animals Have Moral Rights?” (57-89)
- Peter Singer, “Practical Ethics” (Armstrong 36-46)
- [Optional] Kalof, Section One: Animals as Philosophical and Ethical Subjects
  - Peter Singer, “Animal Liberation or Animal Rights”
  - Tom Regan, “The Rights of Humans and Other Animals”
  - Martha Nussbaum, “The Moral Status of Animals”
- Third pbworks upload

Tues. Sept. 28 – Animals as Ethical Subjects, day 3: Questioning Animal Liberation
- Carl Cohen, “Reply to Tom Regan” (Armstrong and Botzler, hereafter Armstrong)
- R.G. Frey, “Rights, Interests, Desires and Beliefs” (Armstrong 55-58)

Thur. Sept. 30 – Animal Consciousness
- Fourth pbworks upload

Tues. Oct. 5 – Primates
- Armstrong, Part Three (151-180): Marc Bekoff, Sue Savage-Rumbaugh et al, A. Whiten et al, Juan Carlos Gómez, and Jane Goodall
Thur. Oct. 7 – Cetaceans
  • Armstrong, Part Three (181-210): Whitehead et al, Simmonds, and Cavalieri
  • Fifth pbworks upload

Thur. Oct. 14 – Wild Animals, day 1: Focus on Human-Wildlife Conflicts
  • J. Baird Callicott, “The Philosophical Value of Wildlife” (Armstrong 439-443)
  • Aldo Leopold, “Game and Wildlife Conservation” (Armstrong 451-453) and “Thinking Like a Mountain” / “The Land Ethic” (to be provided online)
  • Dale Peterson, “To Eat the Laughing Animal” (Armstrong 485-489)
  • [skim] Ned Hettinger, “Exotic Species, Naturalisation, and Biological Nativism” (Armstrong 474-484)
  • [optional] Matt Cartmill, “Hunting and Humanity in Western Thought” (Kalof)

Tues. Oct. 19 – Wild Animals, day 2: Focus on Hunting
  • Taylor, ch. 4, “Is it Wrong to Eat or Hunt Animals?” (91-118)
  • Marti Kheel, “The Killing Game: An Ecofeminist Critique of Hunting” (Armstrong 454-463)
  • Alastair S. Gunn, “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” (Armstrong 464-473)
  • Short paper due

Thur. Oct. 21 – Animals as Food, day 1: Focus on Livestock Agriculture
  • 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)
  • Sixth pbworks upload

Tues. Oct. 26 – Animals as Food, day 2: Focus on Diet and Food Choices
  • Taylor, chapter four, “Is it Wrong to Eat or Hunt Animals?” (91-107)
  • 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)

Thur. Oct. 28 – Animals as Food, day 3 – Focus on the Global Food System (and uploads)
  • Readings (probably from current affairs) to be provided
  • Seventh pbworks upload
Tues. Nov. 2 – Animals as Experimental Subjects, day 1
• 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)
• Final paper outline due

Thur. Nov. 4 – Animals as Experimental Subjects, day 2
• Taylor, ch. 5, “Is it Wrong to Use Animals for Scientific Research?” (119-146)
• other readings to be provided on pbworks site
• Eighth pbworks upload

Tues. Nov. 9 – 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)
• Jonathan Balcombe, “Summary of Recommendations” (Armstrong 342-344)

Wed. Nov. 10 – Animals as Symbols
• John Berger, “Why Look at Animals” (Kalof 251-261 – also to be provided online)
• [optional] Boria Sax, “Animals as Tradition” (Kalof 270-277)

Tues. Nov. 16 – Animal Law, day 1
• 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)

Thur. Nov. 18 – Animal Law, day 2
• Selected passages from key legal cases (to be provided)
• Ninth pbworks upload

Tues. Nov. 23 – Activism in Context: Focus on Extreme Tactics and Civil Disobedience
• Wesley Jamison et al, “Every Sparrow that Falls” (Armstrong 609-614)
• Tom Regan, “Understanding Animal Rights Violence” (Armstrong 615-619)
• Courtney Dillard, “Civil Disobedience” (Armstrong 620-623)
• Other links from current affairs tbd
• Final paper rough draft due
At least four pages and five sources needed to get credit

**Tues. Nov. 30 – National Law in Greater Detail: Focus on the Endangered Species Act**
- Short 'ESA basics' crib sheet from the US FWS (pbworks)
- Schwartz, “The Performance of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)
- [Reread] Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the ESA” (pbworks)

**Thur. Dec. 2 – Law and Policy Case Study: On Navy Sonar and Cetaceans**
- 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)
- Tenth pbworks upload

**Tues. Dec. 7 – Special Session on Emerging Issues: Focus on Animal Biotechnology**
- Armstrong Part Six, “Animals and Biotechnology” (369-432, selected passages)

**Thur. Dec. 9 – Catch-all session: Other “Animals and…” Issues**
- Course discussion will focus primarily on student uploads, which should focus on an ‘animals and ?’ issue domain we haven’t discussed in class, such as ‘animals and religion’, ‘animals and film’, ‘animals and literature’, ‘animals and indigenous societies’, etc…
- Eleventh pbworks upload

(Approx.) **Fri. Dec. 17 – Final Paper Due (via email)**