

**Animal Rights and Animal Welfare:  
An Animal Studies Seminar  
Summer II, 2010  
46.331-021**

**M/T/W/Th 12:30-2:30**  
**Office Hours: by appointment**  
**South Campus, Room # TBA**

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**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](http://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](http://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.

- Armstrong, Susan J. and Richard G. Botzler, eds. *The Animal Ethics Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Routledge: New York, 2008.
- Kalof, Linda and Amy Fitzgerald, eds. *The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Texts*. Berg: New York, 2007
- Midgley, Mary. *Animals and Why They Matter*. 1983.

### Grading

- Short Paper (20%)
- Two unannounced reading quizzes (10%)
- Bi-weekly online assignments (20%)
- Final Paper (40%)
  - Outline (5%)
  - Rough Draft (5%)
  - Final Draft (30%)
- Participation (10%)
- Attendance (variable, as much as -20%)
  - 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.

**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, more likely, cut) some readings on a day-to-day basis, so be sure to pay attention in class.**

### **Tuesday, July 6 – Introduction and Policies, Pbworks Tutorial, ‘Personal Archaeologies’**

### **Wednesday, July 7 – The Animals we Know: Animals as Pets**

- Armstrong and Botzler (hereafter Armstrong), Part Nine: Animal Companions (542-583)
  - Focus on: Bernard Rollin
- Optional: Yi-Fu Tuan, “Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection” (Kalof and Fitzgerald, hereafter Kalof)

### **Thursday, July 8 – Animals as Symbols**

- Kalof, Section Five: Animals as Symbols (249-277)
  - Read: John Berger, Claude Levi-Strauss, and Boria Sax
    - § Focus on: John Berger, “Why Look at Animals”
- First pbworks upload

### **Monday, July 12 – Animals as Ethical Subjects, day 1**

- 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”
- Mary Midgley, *Animals and Why They Matter*, chapter 1

### **Tuesday, July 13 – Animals as Ethical Subjects, day 2**

- Robert Streiffer, “In Defense of the Moral Relevance of Species Boundaries (Armstrong)
- Carl Cohen, “Reply to Tom Regan” (Armstrong and Botzler, hereafter Armstrong)
- *Animals and Why they Matter*, selected passages
- Second pbworks upload

### **Wednesday, July 14 – Animal Consciousness**

- Daniel Dennett, “Animal Consciousness: What Matters and Why” (Armstrong)
- Marian Stamp Dawkins, “Animal Minds and Animal Emotions” (Armstrong)
- Bernard E. Rollin, “Animal Pain” (Armstrong)
- [Browse] *Animals and Why they Matter*, ch. 8, “Sentience and Social Claims”

### **Thursday, July 15 – Primates and Cetaceans**

- Mark Bekoff, “Deep Ethology, Animal Rights, and the Great Ape/Animal Project: Resisting Speciesism and Expanding the Community of Equals” (Armstrong)
- Jane Goodall et al, “Cultures in Chimpanzees” (Armstrong)
- Mark Peter Simmonds, “Into the Brains of Whales” (Armstrong)
- Paola Cavalieri, “Whales as Persons” (Armstrong)
- Third pbworks upload

### **Monday, July 19 – Wild Animals, day 1**

- Aldo Leopold, “Game and Wildlife Conservation” (Armstrong) and “Thinking Like a Mountain” (to be provided)
- J. Baird Callicott, “The Philosophical Value of Wildlife” (Armstrong)
- Alastair S. Gunn, “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” (Armstrong)
- Ned Hettinger, “Exotic Species, Naturalisation, and Biological Nativism” (Armstrong)
- Matt Cartmill, “Hunting and Humanity in Western Thought” (Kalof)
- Short paper due

### **Tuesday, July 20 – Wild Animals, day 2**

- Focus on uploads, wrapping up day one’s readings, and other possible readings tbd
- Fourth pbworks upload

### **Wednesday, July 21 – Animals as Food, day 1**

- Temple Grandin, “Thinking Like Animals” and “A Major Change” (Armstrong)
- Michael Appleby, “Food Prices and Animal Welfare”
- Animal Agriculture Alliance, “Animal Agriculture: Myths and Facts” (Armstrong)
- Carol Adams, “The Rape of Animals, The Butchering of Women”
- Christian, Jewish, and Islamic views on eating meat (Armstrong)

### **Thursday, July 22 – Animals as Food, day 2**

- Focus on uploads, wrapping up day one’s reading, and other possible readings tbd
- Fifth pbworks upload

### **Monday, July 26 – Animals as Experimental Subjects, day 1**

- David DeGrazia, “The Ethics of Animal Research” (Armstrong)
- Baruch Brody, “Defending Animal Research” (Armstrong)
- F. Barbara Orlans, “Ethical Themes of National Regulations Governing Animal Experiments: An International Perspective”
- David Morton, “Some Ethical Issues in Biotechnology Involving Animals” (Armstrong)
- Kevin R. Smith, “Animal Genetic Manipulation: A Utilitarian Response” (Armstrong)

- Final paper outline due

### **Tuesday, July 27 – Animals as Experimental Subjects, day 2**

- Focus on uploads, wrapping up day one’s reading, and other possible readings tbd
- Sixth pbworks upload

### **Wednesday, July 28 – Animals in Education and Entertainment (Focus on Zoos)**

- Randall L. Eaton, “Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity” (Armstrong)
- Dale Jamieson, “Against Zoos” (Armstrong)
- Michael Hutchins *et al*, “In Defense of Zoos and Aquariums” (Armstrong)
- Jonathan Balcombe, “Summary of Recommendations” (Armstrong)

### **Thursday, July 29 – Animal Law**

- Steven Wise, “A Great Shout: Legal Rights for Great Apes” (Armstrong)
- Richard Posner, “Book Review of *Rattling the Cage*” (Armstrong)
- Richard Epstein, “The Dangerous Claims of the Animal Rights Movement” (Armstrong)
- Seventh pbworks upload

### **Monday, August 2 – Animal Activism in Context**

- Wesley Jamison et al, “Every Sparrow that Falls”
- Tom Regan, “Understanding Animal Rights Violence”
- Other links from pertinent developments tbd
- Final paper rough draft due
  - At least four pages and five sources needed

### **Tuesday, August 3 – Animals in the News: National Policy**

- Readings tbd
- Eighth pbworks upload

### **Wednesday, August 4 – Animals in the News: International Policy**

- Readings tbd
- Ninth pbworks upload

### **Thursday, August 5 – Catch-up and Course Recapitulation**

- Readings tbd by student interest

### **(Approx.) Friday, August 13 – Final Paper Due**