Animal Rights and Animal Welfare: 
An Animal Studies Seminar 
Spring 2010 
46.331.001

Wednesdays, 6-9 PM  
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 ikisharpless.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.

Optional Texts


Grading

- Short Paper (20%)
- Final Paper (50%)
  - Outline (5%)
  - Rough Draft (5%)
  - Final Draft (40%)
- NGO Case Study, in-class exercise (5%)
- One pop quiz (5%)
- Participation (20%)
  - 20% of this grade will be based on student uploads to the pbworks website (2% each, due by class on Wednesday, but preferably by Tuesday evening. There are thirteen uploads, and you need to do ten of them)
- Attendance (variable, as much as -20%)
  - I will take attendance each class. One unexcused absences throughout the course will be permitted, but each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by a third of a letter. This will be taken especially seriously in this course, as each class constitutes a full week of material.

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. 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.

Wed. Jan. 26 – Introductions, Course Policies, Pbworks Tutorial, Personal Archeologies
• Come to class prepared to discuss your formative experiences with nonhuman animals

Web. Feb. 2 – 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

Wed. Feb. 9 – Introducing Public Policy and NGO Case Study in-class exercise
• Deborah Stone, “Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas” (pbworks)
• Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)
• 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]
• [recommended] Read relevant paper I co-wrote, “Framing PETA and McDonald's” (pbworks)
Wed. Feb. 16 – 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 and Botzler, hereafter Armstrong)
- R.G. Frey, “Rights, Interests, Desires and Beliefs” (Armstrong 55-58)
- [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

Wed. Feb 23 – Animal Consciousness (Focus on Primates and Cetaceans)
- [Selected essays tbd from the following] Armstrong, Part Three (151-210): Marc Bekoff, Sue Savage-Rubaugh et al, A. Whiten et al, Juan Carlos Gómez, and Jane Goodall, Whitehead et al, Simmonds, and Cavalieri
- Fourth pbworks upload

Wed. Mar. 2 – Wild Animals: Focus on Human-Wildlife Conflicts and Hunting
- Dale Peterson, “To Eat the Laughing Animal” (Armstrong 485-489)
- [skim] Ned Hettinger, “Exotic Species, Naturalisation, and Biological Nativism” (Armstrong 474-484)
- Marti Kheel, “The Killing Game: An Ecofeminist Critique” (Armstrong 454-463)
- Alastair S. Gunn, “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” (Armstrong 464-473)
- Fifth pbworks upload
- Short paper due

Wed. Mar. 9 – 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)
- Michael Pollan, "Farmer in Chief": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?_r=1
• Sixth pbworks upload

**Wed. Mar. 23 – 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)
- Research paper outline due
- Seventh pbworks upload

**Wed. Mar. 30 - Animals as Experimental Subjects**
- David DeGrazia, “The Ethics of Animal Research” (Armstrong 308-316)
- supplemental readings to be provided on pbworks site
- Eighth pbworks upload

**Wed. Apr. 6 – 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)
- Ninth pbworks upload

**Wed. Apr. 13 – 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)
- Final paper rough draft due
- Tenth pbworks upload

**Wed. Apr. 20 - Animal Law**
- Steven Wise, “A Great Shout: Legal Rights for Great Apes” (Armstrong 589-595)
• Richard Epstein, “The Dangerous Claims of the Animal Rights Movement” (Armstrong 601-604)
• Selected passages from key legal cases (to be provided)
• Eleventh pbworks upload

**Wed. Apr. 27 – National Law in Greater Detail: 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)
• Twelfth pbworks upload

**Wed. May 4 – Wrap Up, and Special Session on Emerging Issues: Focus on Animal Biotechnology**
• Armstrong Part Six, “Animals and Biotechnology” (369-432, selected passages)
• Thirteenth pbworks upload

**Fri. Dec. 13 – Final Paper Due by email to ikesharpless@gmail.com**