

HUM 320 Wildlife Film and Television

Dr. Mark L. Berrettini

Class Meeting: TR 11-12:15, Ross 90 Ross 1130 A

Screening: T, 6-9, Ross 1010

351-2586

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Course Description

This course will cover a range of film and television texts, fiction and non-fiction, that represent non-human and human animals, nature and “wildlife”. We will examine concepts such as: anthropomorphism, human-animal interactions, the cultural construction of nature and wilderness, the animal “world” as an extension of humanity, the definition and boundary of wildlife, subjectivity, and the popularity of animal and nature genres in film and television.

Required Texts

- Mitman, Gregg. Reel Nature
- Rothfels, Nigel, ed. Representing Animals **RA**
- Course Reader available at The Book Stop **CP**
- Screenings, during screening time

Class Policies, Grading, and Assignments

- Any student absent five times (2 1/2 weeks of class) will receive an automatic failing grade. Please see me during office hours or by appointment about any university excused absences. The last day to withdraw from an individual course is October 15.
- No late assignments or make up exams
- No email or phone discussions of grades as per privacy rights. Please see me during office hours or by appointment about these matters.
- Class disruptions (talking, cell phones), leaving class early, excessive lateness, and sleeping during class will lower your final grade, and I may ask you to leave and/or withdraw from the class
- Plagiarism and cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students and result in disciplinary action. For definitions of plagiarism and questions, see <http://www.unco.edu/dos/plagiarism/index.htm> or speak to me.
- 75% Three take-home essay exams, I & II~1500 words; III~2500 words. These essay exams may include a shot-by-shot sequence analysis. The exams are due in class—not in my mailbox, under my office door, or by other means.
- 25% Class Discussion: Each student will be assigned a group, and each week, students in that group will be responsible for leading class discussion. Individuals should be prepared with discussion questions and points about the readings and the screenings for the weeks assigned, but students do not need to coordinate with each other (that is, groups don’t need to meet). Please type your discussion points and print two copies, one to be handed in and one to keep. Discussion points are due during class—not in my mailbox, under my office door, or by other means. Students not responsible for a given week are expected to participate on the topic.

Disability Support Services

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

History and Visual Culture: Zoos, Naturalists, and Nature Faking

Week 1

- R Hoage CP
Roosevelt CP
S Examples in class

Week 2

- R Rothels RA
Isenberg RA
S Examples in class

Week 3

- R Fudge RA
Berger CP
S Muybridge prints; early cinema

Week 4

- R Mitman Prologue and CH. 1, CH. 4 recommended
S Muybridge prints; early cinema

Classic Cinema and Television: Variants in Fictions and Non-fiction

Week 5

- R Bloom CP
Mitman CH. 3
S *Nanook of the North* (Flaherty, US, 1922)

Week 6

- R Mitman CH. 2
S *Chang* (Schoedsack and Cooper, US, 1927)

Week 7

- R Erb CP
S *King Kong* (Schoedsack and Cooper, US, 1933)

Week 8

- R Mitman CH. 5
S Selections from *Disney True-Life Adventures* (1948-1960)

Week 9

- R Mitman CH. 6
S Selections from *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* (1963-1988)

Week 10

- R Mitman CH. 7
S *Flipper* (Clark, US, 1963)

Competing Themes: Animal Villians and Animal Activism

Week 11

- R Desmond RA
Rothels, "Introduction" RA
Recommended: Marvin RA
- S *Jaws* (Spielberg, US, 1975)
Recommended: *The Birds* (Hitchcock, US, 1963)

Week 12

- R *The New Yorker* CP
Kete RA
- S Selections from *The Crocodile Hunter* (Stainton, Australia, 1996-)
Recommended: *The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course* (Stainton, Australia/US, 2002)

Week 13

- R Baker RA
Lippit RA
- S *Project Grizzly* (Lynch, Canada, 1996)

Week 14

- R McHugh CP
- S *Babe* (Noonan, Australia/US, 1995)
Recommended: *Babe: Pig in the City* (Miller, Australia/US, 1998)

Week 15

- R Mitman CH. 8
McHugh RA
- S TBA