This course will explore the relationship between performance and the fast-growing new field of Animal Studies, which examines the cultural meaning of human animal practices. These include not only literary representations of animals (from Aesop’s *Fables* to Will Self’s *Great Apes*), not only dramatic representations of animals (from Aristophanes’ *The Frogs* to Shaeffer’s *Equus* to Albee’s *The Goat*), not only animal performances in circuses and on stage, but also such ubiquitous or isolated social practices as pet-keeping, cock-fighting, dog shows, equestrian displays, rodeos, bull-fighting, animal sacrifice, hunting, animal slaughter, and meat-eating. We will study plays and films that explore the ways our interaction with animals shapes our accounts of the human, the “other” (including the racial and ethnic other), and the world.

BOOKS (Available in the New York University Book Centers):
Plays:
Edward Albee, *The Zoo Story, The Goat*  
Peter Shaeffer, *Equus*  
Caryl Churchill, *Far Away*  
Eugene O’Neill, *The Hairy Ape*  
Eugene Ionesco, *Rhinoceros*  
A. R. Gurney, *Sylvia*  
Elizabeth Egloff, *The Swan*

COURSE PACKET (available for purchase from the Advanced Copy Center on LaGuardia place, containing the following two plays): Terry Johnson, *Cries from the Mammal House*, Sam Shepard, *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*

READINGS ON E-RESERVE. A number of assigned reading for this course (those marked with an asterisk below) are on Electronic Reserve on Bobst library’s ERes system. You may access the E-reserves from the Libraries' homepage. Click on "Reserves", select "Electronic Reserves" and then search by department or instructor name. The url is: [http://eres.library.nyu.edu/courseindex.asp](http://eres.library.nyu.edu/courseindex.asp). **E-Reserves course pages are password-protected.**

The password for your course is xxxxxxx

COURSE WEB-SITE (NYU Blackboard, automatically available to all registered students through your NYU Home account): Contains course documents and some of the course readings

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance, Punctuality, Participation
Preparation: careful reading of all assigned materials before class. *From each item read, select a short excerpt that you find especially interesting or important, and be prepared to discuss/comment on it in class.*
Class Presentation: see below
Two papers: see below
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND SCREENINGS:


9/9: Read: *Chapter 1 of Animal by Erica Fudge

Weeks 2 and 3: 9/14-9/16: THE ANIMAL MYSTIQUE: MYTHS, DREAMS, DESIRES
Peter Shaeffer, Equus
Shepard, Sam. “Geography of a Horse Dreamer” (course packet)
See Racetrack by Frederick Wiseman (film)

9/21-9/23: PRESENTATIONS START. Elizabeth Egloff, The Swan

Week 4: 9/28-9/30: ANIMAL GEOGRAPHIES, 1: The City
Edward Albee, The Zoo Story
*Deleuze and Guattari, “Becoming Intense, Becoming Animal”
(Over this weekend, Oct 1-3, try to see the play “Animal” by Kevin Augustine at HERE Arts Center; 146 6th Avenue, 212-868-4444)

Week 5: 10/5-10/7: ANIMAL GEOGRAPHIES, 2: “Home and Abroad,” Nation and Empire.
Johnson, Terry, Cries from the Mammal House (Course Packet)

Week 6: 10/12-10/14: Presentations
Mid-term paper: Due 10/12, in class.

Week 7: 10/19-10/21: ANIMAL HISTORIES

10/20. 6:15-8 p.m. Film screening: Amores Perros. Great Room, 1st Floor, 19 University Place.
Week 8: 10/26-10/28 ANIMAL IDEOLOGIES
*Rachel Rosenthal, “The Others.”

Week 9: 11/2-11/4: ANIMAL REPRESENTATIONS and ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIES
Akira Mizuta Lippit, “. . . From Wild Technology to Electric Animal” (in Representing Animals)
Jane Desmond, “Displaying Death, Animating Life: Changing Fictions of “Liveness” from Taxidermy to Animatronics,” (in Representing Animals)
Video: “Disney’s Animal Kingdom”

Week 10: 11/9-11/11: PRIMATE PERFORMANCE
11/9 Guest Lecture: Erika Rundle
Eugene O’Neill, The Hairy Ape
*John Berger, “Ape Theatre.”
See film Primate (library)

Week 11: 11/16-11/18: ANIMAL HOLOCAUSTS
J.M. Coetzee, The Lives of the Animals
A one-page description of your proposed paper (including sources) is due in class on 11/18

Week 12: 11/23: Film: Zoo by Frederick Wiseman
11/22 (Monday) 6-8 p.m. Film screening: Zoo In The Great Room, 1st Floor, 19 University Place.

Week 13: 11/30-12/2: ANIMAL TRANSGRESSIONS
Final Paper: Due Thursday, December 2 at 5 pm in my mailbox (5th floor, 19 University Place)
Edward Albee, The Goat, A. R. Gurney, Sylvia

Week 14: 12/7-12/9: ANIMAL PASTS, ANIMAL FUTURES
Caryl Churchill, Far Away
Eugene Ionesco, Rhinoceros

12/14: CONCLUSION