

## SEMINAR: MEDIEVAL ANIMALS

CLEN G6028  
Fall 2013  
Mondays 11:00-12:50  
612 Philosophy Hall

Professor Susan Crane (sc2298)  
616 Philosophy Hall  
office hours: M 4:00-5:00,  
W 1:30-2:30, or by appointment

Course description: This seminar offers an introduction to basic readings in the field called critical animal studies or human-animal studies, with primary texts from medieval Britain and France, and secondary texts by familiar theorists including Derrida, Foucault, Agamben, Nussbaum, and Haraway together with field-specific founders including Ursula Heise, Vinciane Despret, and Cary Wolfe. Medieval literature offers a rich archive of thought about nonhuman animals, ranging from the high philosophy of Augustine's commentary on Genesis and Aquinas's rediscovery of Aristotle, to the many animal miracles in the Life of Saint Cuthbert, the totemic use of animals in heraldry and family genealogies, and the instructions in treatises on how to hunt boar and deer. Many questions still current in animal studies today engaged medieval writers as well. Do humans have ethical responsibilities to animals? What kinds of consciousness do different species have? How did domestication come about? What kinds of working relationships are possible across species lines? What rhetorical resources (metaphoric? anthropomorphic? affective?) come forward when animals are represented, and what are the limitations of rhetoric for translating animal encounters into language?

Course design: Each week's readings raise a number of questions, often intersecting and contradictory, about what other animals have meant to humans, what kinds of contact with them are valued and abhorred, what their symbolic and material uses have been, and how their consciousness has been imagined. Course requirements include active class participation, a research paper of 20-25 pages, a workshop presentation of the research project, and weekly posts to Courseworks. Readings detailed on the class schedule fall into three groups:

(1) Four of the required readings are: Physiologus: A Medieval Book of Nature Lore, trans. Michael Curley (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1979/2009); The Book of Beasts, trans. T.H. White (Putnam, 1954 and Dover, 1984); Chrétien de Troyes, Yvain: The Knight of the Lion, trans. Robert Ackerman and others (Waveland Press, 1977/1992); Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. James Winny (Broadview, 1992). Other editions of these works are acceptable, if you don't mind the confusion over page numbers. \*\*The University Bookstore no longer orders sufficient copies. If the bookstore is sold out, please order the required texts on line from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or similar.\*\*

(2) All other required readings are in the Coursepack, available at Village Copier (Broadway at 112th).

(3) Additional PDF readings are posted on Courseworks. They are provided as background but are not required reading.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- Sept. 9 Bestiary, “Cat”; “The Scholar and His Cat (Pangur Ban)”; Wolfe, “Human, All Too Human”
- [PDF: Grandin, “My Story”; Nagel, “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?”]
- Sept. 16 *In the beginning*: Genesis, Chapters 1-9; Augustine and Aquinas on Genesis and nature; Derrida, The Animal That Therefore I Am
- [PDF: Sorabji, Animal Minds and Human Morals; Wolfe, “Flesh and Finitude”]
- Sept. 23 *Ethics and animal killing*: exemplary dog story from Dolopathos, Seven Sages of Rome, Gesta Romanorum; Augustine and Aquinas on killing and loving animals; Haraway, “Sharing Suffering”; Kermode, “Why Are Narratives Obscure?”
- [PDF: Levinas, “Name of a Dog” with Atterton, “Ethical Cynicism”; Schmitt, Holy Greyhound; Nussbaum, “Moral Status of Animals”]
- Sept. 30 *Metamorphosis*: Ovid, Metamorphoses; Marie de France, Lais: “Bisclavret,” “Yonec”; Agamben, Homo Sacer and The Open excerpts; James, “Phenomenology and the Problem of Animal Minds”
- [PDF: Mills, “Judicial Violence”; Calarco, “Jamming the Anthropological Machine: Agamben”]
- Oct. 7 *Book of Nature*: Pliny, Historia naturalis; Physiologus; Ambrose, Hexameron; Augustine and Aquinas on reading nature; Kay, “Legible Skins”; Holsinger, “Of Pigs and Parchment”
- [PDF: Clark, “The Fathers and the Animals”; Eco, “Scandal of Metaphor”]
- Oct. 14 *Taxonomy and classification*: Isidore of Seville, Etymologies; Book of Beasts; Foucault, “Prose of the World”; Gould, “So Noble an Hecatomb”
- [PDF: Muratova, “Bestiaries”; Cursor Mundi on animals and the Fall]  
[Aberdeen Bestiary: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bestiary/>]

Oct. 21 *Domestication and environmental experiments*: Life of Cuthbert; Life and Miracles of St. Modwenna, animal miracles from various saints' lives; Despret, "The Body We Care For"; Coppinger and Schneider, "Evolution of Working Dogs"

[PDF: Le Goff, "Wilderness in the Medieval West"; Alexander, Saints and Animals]

Oct. 28 *Animal partners and liminal human-animals*: Chrétien de Troyes, Yvain; Cohen, "Chevalerie"; Steel, "How to Make a Human"

[PDF: Deleuze and Guattari, A Thousand Plateaus excerpts; Freedman, "Representation of Medieval Peasants"]

[NOV. 4 = ELECTION HOLIDAY]

Nov. 11 *Anthropomorphism and zoomorphism*: Marie de France, Fables; Geoffrey Chaucer, Nun's Priest's Tale; Tyler, "If Horses Had Hands"; Daston, "Intelligences"

[PDF: Beer, "Animal Presences"; Nun's Priest's Tale source in Roman de Renart]

Nov. 18 *Hunting and wild nature*: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; Twiti, Art of Hunting; Edward of York, Master of Game; Cartmill, "Hunting and Humanity"; Pollan, "Hunting"

[PDF: Marvin, "Wild Killing"; Thomas, "Chasing the Ideal"]

Nov. 25 *Technology and compassion*: Chaucer, Squire's Tale; Chevelere Assigne; Derrida, "Hospitality"; Heise, "Android and Animal"

[PDF: Diamond, "Difficulty of Reality"; Haraway, "Cyborg Manifesto"]

Dec. 2 Research paper workshop

Dec. 9 Research paper workshop  
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE: TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, NOON

### **Basic reference works for medieval literary studies:**

*Middle English Dictionary:*

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room, Dictionaries shelf, PE679.M54

*Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church:*

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room BR95.O8 1997

*Atlas of Medieval Jewish History:*

Butler Reference R 912 B35

*Manual of the Writings in Middle English:*

Butler Reference R 016.82 W46 1967

*Dictionary of the Middle Ages:*

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room D114.D5 1982

Butler Reference R940 D56

Bible concordances and encyclopedias:

Butler Stacks and Ancient/Medieval Reading Room: BS400 and following

Latin Vulgate Bible (the medieval Christian Bible):

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room BS75 1975

Douay-Rheims Bible (English translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible):

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room BS180. 1989

### **Websites for Medieval Studies:**

*Middle English Compendium (includes Middle English Dictionary):*

Search CLIO by this title for access

*International Medieval Bibliography:*

Search CLIO by this title for access

*MLA International Bibliography:*

Search CLIO by this title for access

*Medieval Bibles on the web:*

Start at <http://www.awmach.org/web/home.htm>, choose Online Bibles, choose Vulgate (the medieval Latin Bible) and Douay-Rheims (English translation of the Vulgate)

*Medieval literature and history:*

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/4224263.html>

<http://www.webpages.ttu.edu/joseppri/oldfrench/literature.html>

<http://the-orb.net>

<http://www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>

<http://www.netserf.org/>

<http://www.msu.edu/~georgem1/history/medieval.htm>

## Websites and Listserv for Animal Studies:

Academic Bibliography: <http://www.animalstudies.msu.edu/bibliography.php>  
Minding Animals: <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>  
Australian Animal Studies Group: <http://www.aasg.org.au/>  
H-Net Network on Animal Studies: <http://www.h-net.org/~animal>

## Websites for Journals in Animal Studies:

*Animal Studies Journal*: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>  
*Antennae*: [www.antennae.org.uk](http://www.antennae.org.uk)  
*Anthrozoos: Journal of the International Society for Anthrozoology*:  
[www.bergpublishers.com/BergJournals/Anthrozo%C3%B6s/tabid/519/Default.aspx](http://www.bergpublishers.com/BergJournals/Anthrozo%C3%B6s/tabid/519/Default.aspx)  
*Between the Species*: <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/bts/>  
*Environmental Humanities Journal*: <http://www.environmentalhumanities.org>  
*Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies*:  
[www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/call.html](http://www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/call.html)  
*Isle: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*:  
[www.asle.org/site/publications/isle/](http://www.asle.org/site/publications/isle/)  
*PAN: Philosophy, Activism, Nature*:  
<http://search.informit.com.au/browseJournalTitle;res=E-LIBRARY;issn=1443-6124>  
*Society and Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies*:  
[www.societyandanimalsforum.org/sa/index.html](http://www.societyandanimalsforum.org/sa/index.html)

## Publication Series in Animal Studies:

Brill—*Human-Animal Studies*: <http://www.brill.com/publications/human-animal-studies>  
Columbia University Press—*Animal Studies*: <http://cup.columbia.edu/subject/177>  
University of Chicago Press—*Reaktion Animal*:  
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/series/RB-A.html>  
Johns Hopkins University Press—*Animals, History, Culture*:  
<http://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/ecom/MasterServlet/GetCatalogueDetailsHandler?cID=ANI&direction=1&encodedPath=MAIN%1E%1F%1Ehome%1E%1F%1ESERIES%1E%1F%1ESeries%1E%1F%1E&productsView=0&loggedIN=false&JavaScript=y>  
University of Minnesota Press—*Posthumanities*:  
<http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/series/posthumanities>  
Rodopi—*Critical Animal Studies*: <http://www.rodopi.nl/senj.asp?SerieId=CAS>