

**ANIMALS AND SOCIETY
SOCIOLOGY 2096, Spring 2009
Montoya Campus**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Margo DeMello Course section: 201
Office: K103, Cubicle 19 Term: Spring 2009
Office hours: T Th 11:45-12:30 Credit hours: 3
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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: RDG 100 or Accuplacer Reading score of 80 or equivalent.

For thousands of years, animals of all kinds have figured prominently in both the material foundations and the ideological underpinnings of human societies. This course explores the spaces that animals occupy in human social and cultural worlds and the interactions humans have with them. Central to this course will be an exploration of the ways in which animal lives intersect with human societies.

Much of human society is structured through interactions with non-human animals or through interactions with other humans about animals. Yet, until very recently sociology has largely ignored these types of interaction. Their presence however becomes difficult to ignore when we consider the magnitude of animal representations, symbols, stories and their actual physical presence in human societies and cultures.

This course is designed to bring into the realm of sociological inquiry the relationships that exist between humans and other animals. A major focus will be on the social construction of animals in American culture and the way in which these social meanings are used to perpetuate hierarchical human/human relationships such as racism, sexism, and class privilege. Animal/human interaction in several major social institutions will be studied. We will also examine how different human groups construct a range of identities for themselves and for others through animals. Finally, we will examine several of the major philosophical positions about human social policy regarding the future of animal/human relations. What are the ethical, ecological and societal consequences of continuing our current patterns into the 21st century?

III. TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

Flynn, Cliff, ed. *Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader*. 2008.

Kalof, Linda and Amy Fitzgerald, eds. *The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings*. 2007.

Additional handouts may be given out in class, and we will watch a number of films in class as well, which will be required.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Sociology 2096, Animals & Society, is intended to promote an understanding of the role that animals play in human social lives.

The student will be able to:

- ✓ Analyse the various ways that animals are used in human societies;
- ✓ Examine the complex biological and social relationships between animals and humans;
- ✓ Identify the reasons for, and consequences of, animal domestication;
- ✓ Understand the ways that human societies have used the representations of animals in art, religion and literature;
- ✓ Describe how animals are used as models or stand-ins for humans in a range of situations;
- ✓ Explore the roots of human language in animal communication;
- ✓ Understand the complex role played by pets in modern society;
- ✓ Understand the range of moral, philosophical and scientific debates in which animals play a major role today.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS / ATTENDANCE & CLASS POLICIES

Students enrolled for credit, credit/no credit, or audit are expected to attend all class sessions, and I will regularly take attendance; attendance will count towards 5% of your grade. A student with excessive absences—15% of total class hours—may be dropped from the class. Students should not assume they will be dropped from the class automatically; if you want to drop and not get an F in class, you need to drop by the drop deadline. Absences do not relieve students of the responsibility for missed assignments and exams. It is CHSS policy that all courses require final examinations.

If you must miss a class, it is up to you to borrow notes from a classmate as each lecture covers materials that you will be responsible for. You will also need to see any films that you have missed. Exams must be taken on the exam date, and late assignments will only receive partial credit. The only exception to late essays or exams will be illness, accident, or death in the family (and medical excuses are required). In addition, if you miss an exam or an assignment due to a major catastrophe, you will need to contact me BEFORE the assignment is due to get an extension.

Students are required to do all of the readings for the course, and to complete each week's reading assignment *before* the first class meeting of the week. Classes will be a combination of lecture and discussion, so it is imperative that you finish the assignment before class so that you can discuss it with the class.

This class will only have one exam, a final, which will stress concepts taken from the lectures, films and readings, and will be an essay exam. In addition, you will write a 7-10 page (typed) essay, to be based on an assignment to be handed out in class. Finally, students will be given homework or in class assignments every week and will be expected to keep a journal detailing their daily interactions with animals.

Homework and in-class assignments will vary. Sometimes you'll be asked to write a short reaction (one or two paragraphs) to that day's readings. Other times, you'll be asked to come up with a question that you have about the reading assignment. These assignments will be given either as homework or will be done in class with the goal that they will act as a catalyst for discussion by encouraging critical thinking and reflection.

Note: The nature of this course means that students will have different opinions, sometimes quite passionate, about the subject matter. While you are encouraged to speak your mind freely in class discussions, you will also be expected to express yourself courteously, showing respect for the opinions and sensibilities of others. In addition, some of what we will discuss, read about, and see in the films, may be challenging or hard to hear and watch.

Students are expected to follow the guidelines in the CNM Student Code of Conduct sections III and IV (see www.cnm.edu/depts/mco/pubs/PDFs/CNM_StudentPlanr06-07.pdf); in particular, cheating on exams,

turning in work which is wholly or in part not the student's own original work, and using ideas, writings, or other material without clearly and accurately giving credit to the originator are all forms of academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated.

Finally, also included in the CNM Student Code of Conduct: **please turn off your cell phones during class time, do not check messages, and do not text!** Also, please do not eat in the classroom (even during films), and please do not talk during class time. All of these activities are disruptive to the class as a whole and can result in a lowered grade.

VI. GRADING

Your course assignments will be made up of homework, a journal, a final, and a paper. Grades will be allocated as follows:

- The paper will be worth 35% of your grade
- The final will be worth 30% of your grade
- The homework will be worth 10% of your grade
- The journal will be worth 20% of your grade
- Attendance will count towards 5% of your grade.

Grading will generally conform to the following:

A= 100-90%; B=89-80%; C=79-70%; D=69-60%; & F=59-0%.

Students must complete all course requirements to earn credit for the course. According to CNM policy, students who fail to complete the requirements will be assigned an F.

In the event CNM closes during finals week, CHSS finals scheduled for that day will be rescheduled to the first non-exam day available, at the same time and the same location as originally scheduled. If closures occur for more than one day during finals week, finals cancelled on subsequent days will be rescheduled for the next available day; again at the same time and location originally scheduled. If rescheduling of a final exam is impossible due to a lengthy closing during finals week, final grades for students will be calculated on the work assessed up to that point.

VII. SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS / READINGS / FILMS

Note: Readings beginning with SC come from *Social Creatures*; readings beginning with AR come from *The Animals Reader*.

1/12 Week 1 Introduction to Human Animal Studies

SC: *Social Creatures: An Introduction*, Clifton Flynn

SC: *Introduction to Human Animal Studies*, Kenneth J. Shapiro

SC: *The Zoological Connection: Animal-Related Human Behavior*, Clifton Bryant

SC: *The Animal Question in Anthropology*, Barbara Noske

1/19 Week 2 Historical and Comparative Perspectives

Handout: *The Present and Future of Animal Domestication*, Margo DeMello

AR: *The Hunter-Gatherer Prehistory of Human-Animal Interactions*, Steven Mithen

AR: *Animal Planet*, Harriet Ritvo

SC: *Speciesism, Anthropocentrism, and Non-Western Cultures*, Barbara Noske

SC: *The Anthropology of Conscience*, Michael Tobias

Film: *"Holy Cow"* (60 mins)

Film: *"Dogs that Changed the World"* (108 mins)

1/26 Week 3 Animals as Philosophical and Ethical Subjects

AR: The History of Animals, Aristotle.

AR: Principles of Morals and Legislation, Jeremy Bentham.

AR: Animal Liberation or Animal Rights? Peter Singer.

AR: The Rights of Humans and Other Animals, Tom Regan.

AR: The Moral Status of Animals, Martha Nussbaum.

AR: Becoming-Animal, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari.

Film: "In Defense of Animals: A Portrait of Peter Singer" (CNM 28 mins)

2/2 Week 4 Emotions, Intelligence and Reflexivity

AR: An Apology for Raymond Sebond, Michel de Montaigne.

AR: From the Letters of 1646 and 1649, René Descartes.

AR: Speaking for Dogs, Clinton R. Sanders and Arnold Arluke.

AR: Wild Justice and Fair Play: Cooperation, Forgiveness, and Morality in Animals, Marc Bekoff.

AR: Grief, Sadness, and the Bones of Elephants, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson and Susan McCarthy.

AR: Orangutan Cultures and the Evolution of Material Culture, Van Schaik, Ancrenaz, Borgen, Galdikas, Knott, Singleton, Suzuki, Utami, and Merrill.

Film: "Why Dogs Smile and Chimpanzees Cry" (93 mins)

Film: "A Conversation with Koko" (60 mins)

2/9 Week 5 The Human Animal Bond

SC: Understanding Dogs through Kinesthetic Empathy, Social Construction, and History, Kenneth J. Shapiro

SC: Future Directions in Human-Animal Bond Research, Alan M. Beck and Aaron H. Katcher

SC: Understanding Dogs: Caretakers-Attributions of Mindedness in Canine-Human Relationships, Clinton R. Sanders

SC: The Power of Play, Leslie Irvine

SC: The Health Benefits of Human—Animal Interactions, Andrew N. Rowan and Alan M. Beck

SC: Personality Characteristics of Dog and Cat Persons, Rose M. Perrine and Hannah L. Osbourne

SC: Human Grief Resulting from the Death of a Pet, Gerald H. Gosse and Michael J. Barnes

Film: "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" (83 mins)

Film: "Katrina's Animal Rescue" (60 mins)

2/16 Week 6 Attitudes toward Other Animals

SC: Gender, Sex-role Orientation and Attitudes toward Animals, Harold Herzog, Nancy S. Betchart, and Robert B. Pittman

SC: Childhood Pet Keeping and Humane Attitudes in Young Adulthood, Elizabeth S. Paul and James A. Serpell

SC: Animal Rights and Human Social Issues, David Nibert

Film: "The Natural History of the Chicken" (60 mins)

Film: "Cane Toads" (47 mins)

2/23 Week 7 Animals as Pets

AR: Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection, Yi-Fu Tuan.

SC: The Emergence of Modern Pet-keeping, Harriet Ritvo

First half of Journal due Tuesday, 2/24

Film: "Dogs that Changed the World" (108 mins)

Film: "Gates of Heaven" (85 mins)

Film: "Shelter Dogs" (72 mins)

3/2 Week 8 Animals as Food

AR: The Eating of Flesh, Plutarch.

AR: Brave New Farm? Jim Mason and Mary Finelli.
AR: The Promotion of "Meat" and its Consequences, David Nibert.
Film: "Peaceable Kingdom" (CNM 70 mins)
Film: "Animal Appetites" (CNM 19 mins)

3/9 Week 9 Animals as Entertainment

AR: Combats of Elephants, Pliny the Elder.
AR: On Being Human in the Bullfight, Garry Marvin.
AR: Dogfighting: Symbolic Expression and Validation of Masculinity, Rhonda Evans, DeAnn K.
AR: Gauthier and Craig J. Forsyth.
AR: Zoo Spectatorship, Randy Malamud.
AR: Hunting and Humanity in Western Thought, Matt Cartmill.
Film: "The Urban Elephant" (60 mins)
Film: "Lolita: Slave to Entertainment" (58 mins)

3/16 Week 10 Animals as Symbols and Representing Animals

AR: Why Look at Animals? John Berger.
AR: The Totemic Illusion, Claude Lévi-Strauss.
AR: Animals as Tradition, Boria Sax.
AR: What is the Postmodern Animal? Steve Baker.
AR: The Illumination of the Animal Kingdom: The Role of Light and Electricity in Animal Representation, Jonathan Burt.
SC: There's Not Enough Room to Swing a Dead Cat and There's No Use Flogging a Dead Horse, Tracey Smith-Harris
Film: "The Joy of Pigs" (60 mins)

3/23 Week 11 Animals as Scientific Objects

AR: The Brown Dog Riots of 1907, Coral Lansbury.
AR: Into the Laboratory, Lynda Birke.
AR: Hybrid Geographies: Rethinking the "Human" in Human Geography, Sarah Whatmore.
AR: Dolly's Body: Gender, Genetics and the New Genetic Capital, Sarah Franklin.
AR: Cyborgs to Companion Species: Reconfiguring Kinship in Technoscience, Donna Haraway.
Film: "Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History" (56 mins)
Film: "The Laboratory Rat" (27 mins)
Short: "One Rat Short" (9 mins, Youtube)

3/30 Week 12 Violence to Animals and Humans

SC: Children Who Are Cruel to Animals: A Review of Research and Implications for SC: Developmental Psychology, Frank R. Ascione
SC: Childhood Cruelty to Animals and Subsequent Violence against Humans, Linda Merz-Perez, Kathleen M. Heide, and Ira J. Silverman
SC: Women's Best Friend: Pet Abuse and the Role of Companion Animals in the Lives of Battered Women, Clifton P. Flynn
SC: Hoarding of Animals: An Under-recognized Public Health Problem in a Difficult-to-study Population, Gary J. Patronek
Film: "Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection"

4/6 Week 13 Inequality

SC: An Historical Understanding, Marjorie Spiegel
AR: In Defense of Slavery, Marjorie Spiegel.
AR or SC: The Sexual Politics of Meat, Carol J. Adams
SC: Humans and Other Animals: Sociology's Moral and Intellectual Challenge, David Nibert

Film: "Behind the Mask: The Story of the People who Risk Everything to Save Animals" (72 mins)

4/13 Week 14 Working with Animals

SC: Loving Them to Death: Blame-displacing Strategies of Animal Shelter Workers and Surrenderers, Stephen Frommer and Arnold Arluke

SC: Savages, Drunks, and Lab Animals: The Researcher's Perception of Pain, Mary T. Phillips

Complete Journal due Thursday, 4/16

Film: "The Keepers of Eden" (CNM 60 mins)

Film: "War Dogs" (70 mins)

Film: "Shelter Dogs" (72 mins)

4/20 Week 15 The Animal Rights Movement

SC: All Animals are Equal, Peter Singer

SC: The Case for Animal Rights, Tom Regan

SC: Animal Rights and Feminist Theory, Josephine Donovan

SC: Caring about Blood, Flesh, and Pain: Women's Standing in the Animal Protection Movement, Lyle Munro

SC: Animal Rights as Religious Vision, Andrew Linzey

Film: "The Witness" (43 mins)

Film: "Jane Goodall: Reason for Hope" (CNM)

Paper assignment due Thursday, 4/23

4/27 Week 16 Review, Final

Final Thursday, April 30, 9:30-11:30am