**Module Programme**

With the exception of the readings in Week 1, all reading (literary, critical and theoretical) must be done in advance of the lecture each week.

**Introduction: Theory and Representing Animals**

Week 1: Reading (in class):
- Terry Eagleton, from ‘What is Literature?’
- Tony Bennett, from *Formalism and Marxism*
- Christine Kenyon-Jones, from *Kindred Brutes*

Lecture: Introduction: Representing Animals
Seminar: Literature and Animals

**Animal Lives**

Week 2:
- Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty* (1877)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, ‘On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense’
- Tom Tyler, ‘If Horses Had Hands…’

Lecture: Animal Lives and Anthropomorphism
Seminar: *Black Beauty* as literature

Week 3:
- Jack London, *The Call of the Wild* (1903)
- Joan London, from *Jack London and His Times*
- Howard Horwitz, from ‘Primordial Stories: London and the Immateriality of Evolution’

Lecture: Darwinism, Nature and the Civilized
Seminar: Wild Nature

Week 4:
- Virginia Woolf, *Flush* (1933)
- Kate Flint, ‘Introduction’ to Oxford World’s Classics edition of *Flush*
- Susan Merrill Squier, ‘Flush’s Journey from Imprisonment to Freedom’

Lecture: Writing an Animal’s Life
Seminar: Is *Flush* about a dog?

Week 5:
- Eric Knight, *Lassie Come-Home* (1940)
- Julie Smith, ‘Beyond Dominance and Affection: Living with Rabbits in Post-Humanist Households’

Lecture: Children, Pets and Dominion
Seminar: Animal Agency and Human Control

Week 6:
- Thomas Nagel, from ‘What is it like to be a bat?’
- Nancy E. Snow, ‘Compassion’

Lecture: Writing Ethics
Seminar: The morality of literature

Week 7: Essay Writing Week

**Fables**

Week 8:
- H.G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896)
- Extracts from Patrick Parrinder ed., *H.G. Wells: The Critical Heritage*
• Frank McConnell, from *The Science Fiction of H.G. Wells*
  Lecture: Vivisection and Literature
  Seminar: Describing the Indescribable

Week 9:
• Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Heart of a Dog* (1925)
• Lesley Milne, from *Mikhail Bulgakov: A Critical Biography*
• Edythe C. Haber, from *Mikhail Bulgakov: The Early Years*
  Lecture: Identity and the Animal
  Seminar: Fables and Beasts

Week 10:
• Peter Dickinson, *Eva* (1988)
• René Descartes, from *Discourse on the Method* (1637) and Correspondence (1649)
• Lynda Birke and Mike Michael, ‘The Heart of the Matter: Animal Bodies, Ethics and Species Boundaries’
  Lecture: Crossing Boundaries
  Seminar: Inhabiting the Other

**Conclusion: Fiction and Reality**
Week 11:
  Lecture: Animals and Magical Realism
  Seminar: Preferred Readings and Animal Nature

**NOTE ON PREPARATION EACH WEEK**

In preparation for each week’s three hour session you must read the primary text and all of the secondary materials listed on this outline. In the module reader there are always questions related to each of the critical/theoretical texts you are looking at. As part of your weekly preparation you MUST prepare responses to these questions. Often the questions are simply there to support your reading, but sometimes you will be asked to begin to formulate a personal response to what you have been looking at. I don’t expect you to turn up in class with a fully worked-out answer; some thoughts towards an answer are enough. I will periodically ask to see the notes you bring to class to check that your preparation work is appropriate to the task in hand.

Please bear in mind that the more work you put in to a module the more you will get out of it and that turning up to class without doing adequate preparatory work will lead to you feeling bored, and to your colleagues feeling annoyed that you cannot contribute to discussions in an appropriate manner.

**Rooms, times and attendance**

Thursday TBC

The official minimum attendance requirement is that you should come to at least 75% of all the sessions. If your attendance falls below that level you risk failing the module.
General Information About the Module

Aims and the Nature of the Module

Animals are central to our lives, and are central to the ways in which meaning is made in many literary texts. But the presence of animals in literary texts also allows us to see in new ways how those literary texts work. This module looks at a number of ways in which some modern writers have represented animals in fiction, and concentrates on two kinds of representation: the ‘animal life’ and contemporary scientific ‘fables’. Alongside some key literary texts – including Black Beauty, Lassie Come-Home, and The Island of Doctor Moreau - you will read materials from a range of areas – literary theory, philosophy, history, art history – and will be asked to think about what it means to represent; how representation can work in an ethical way; how literature can respond to, and act upon, wider political debates. Ultimately, you will be asked to think about the question, in what ways can the novel offer its readers a way into a new, possibly ethical relationship with animals?

This module takes as its focus a number of literary texts and asks students to analyse them in the light of current theoretical and philosophical discussions of the place of animals. Divided into two sections, the module looks first at issues of subjectivity and the representation of animals; the second at three modern ‘fables’ and at questions of metamorphosis and morality. In the conclusion it uses Yann Martel’s Life of Pi as a way of thinking about why it is we represent animals.

Students will:
- Identify and evaluate a range of narrative techniques used in the representation of animals in a number of modern literary texts
- Analyse ethical issues relating to the representation of animals
- Assess the significance of intended readers on the representation of animals
- Engage with literary and philosophical materials and evaluate the role of the literary in ethical and political debate

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge
- Knowledge of the linguistic, literary, cultural and socio-historical contexts in which literature is written and read
- Awareness of the variety of critical and theoretical approaches to literary study
- Awareness of how literature and other cultural productions produce and reflect cultural change and difference
Skills
Students will:
• Critically review, consolidate and extend a knowledge of the distinctive nature of representation in modern fiction, and of the linguistic, literary, cultural and socio-historical contexts in which literature is written and read.
• Demonstrate and awareness of how literature and other cultural products produce and reflect change
• Critically evaluate new concepts and evidence from a range of critical and theoretical approaches to the representation of animals
• Transfer and apply diagnostic and creative skills and exercise independent judgement, and display an ability to understand, interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical positions and weigh the importance of alternative perspectives
• Demonstrate research skills, including information retrieval, organisation and critical and theoretical evaluation.

Module Reader
A module reader will be given to you at the beginning of the module. This contains a number of critical and theoretical essays. You must ensure that you read in advance the relevant materials and bring the reader to each lecture and seminar.

Information about the module and weblinks to relevant sites are on the module website on Oasis – accessible through the University’s student site 24-7:
http://www.mdx.ac.uk/24-7/

Assessment

100% coursework : two essays of 2000-2500 words: the first carrying 40% of the mark, the second 60%.

Questions for the first essay will be distributed in class. Questions for the second essay are to be formulated by the student in consultation with the module tutor and in accordance with the aims, assessment criteria and learning outcomes of the module. Students MUST discuss their proposed titles with the module tutor before embarking on their work.

Please note that late submission of the first essay without prior agreement with the module tutor will be given a maximum mark of 16.

The usual penalties apply to late submission of the second piece of coursework.

Required Books for Purchase


All books are available from Faculty Books, Lakeview Building, Trent Park.
**Suggested Secondary Reading**

Materials specific to a literary text on the module are listed in the week by week guide that follows this general reading list.

**Animals: General**
- Adrian Franklin, *Animals and Modern Cultures* (London: Sage, 1999)

**Animals: Literature**

**Animals: History**
- Diana Donald, “‘Beastly Sights’: the treatment of animals as a moral theme in representations of London, c.1820-1850,’ *Art History* 22: 4 (1999), 514-44

**Animals: Culture**

**Animals: Politics and Philosophy**

The journal *Society and Animals* is available online at [http://arrs.envirolink.org/psyeta/sa](http://arrs.envirolink.org/psyeta/sa)