

LTAM 110/ Spring 2009  
T & Th 12:30-1:50 Sequoyah Hall 148  
Prof. Alexandra Isfahani-Hammond  
Office: 337 Lit/ Café Roma  
Office hours: t & Th 11-12 by appointment in Café Roma  
Email: aisfahani@ucsd.edu

LTAM 110 - Latin American Literature in Translation: “Brazilian Humanimals: Species and Postcoloniality in Brazilian Literature”

This course looks at Brazilian texts wherein representations of animals intersect with postcolonial (racialized, classed and gendered) power relations. Situating our readings vis-à-vis other media—essays, cinema, music--we will consider the animal not simply as metaphor for “human” objectification but question precisely the human/ animal divide that enables colonialist systems of domination. Though we will focus principally on Brazilian texts, we will situate them in the context of cross-cultural discussions in ecocriticism and species studies. How do gender, race and species intersect in literary representations? What is at stake in scrutinizing the ethical dimensions of human/ animal relations?

Each student will be expected to actively participate in discussions (read and think about the texts before class, bring comments and questions, engage with other students and the instructor). You will also be required to prepare an oral presentation, submit two analytical papers (one 3-5 page paper and one 8-10 page paper), and prepare written assignments in the form of short "response" essays and discussion questions on a regular basis. There may be pop quizzes. Late papers will drop one third of a grade per day (i.e. a B becomes a B- if one day late, a C+ if two days late). Percentages for all requirements are given below. As with presentations, exceptions for late papers will only be made in the case of illness or other emergency.

Students must bring copies of the texts with them to class. No laptops in the classroom, please. Syllabus subject to revision. Readings may be added or eliminated depending upon the pace of our discussions.

Required texts: two course readers to be purchased at the UCSD bookstore.

Grade breakdown:

Classroom participation – 10%  
3-5 page paper – 20%  
8-10 page paper – 50%  
Oral presentation – 20%

Schedule:

Week one (3/31-4/2): Introduction; What is species studies?  
Cary Wolfe, Introduction, *Animal Rites*

Week two (4/7-4/9): Machado de Assis, “The Secret Heart” (*The Psychiatrist and Other Stories*) and “An Alexandrine Tale” (*The Devil’s Church and Other Stories*). Film on 4/9: “Bus 174” (available on reserve at Geisel library; also available from Netflix)

Week three (4/14-4/16): Gary Francione, Introduction and Chapter One, *Animals as Persons: Essays on the Abolition of Animal Exploitation*

Week four (4/21-23): Regina Rheda, “Miss Carmina and the Prince” (*Meridians*, Oct. 2004), “The Sanctuary” and “Cat Girl” (*First World, Third Class and Other Tales of the Global Mix*)

Week five (4/28-30): Donna Haraway, Introduction, *When Species Meet*

Week six (5/5-5/7): Student presentations

Week seven (5/12-5/14): Graciliano Ramos, *Barren Lives*

Week eight (5/19-5/21): Film, Nelson Pereira dos Santos, “Vidas Secas”

Week nine (5/26-5/28): Guimarães Rosa, “My Uncle the Jaguar” (*The Jaguar and Other Stories*)

Week ten (6/2-6/4): Claire Jean Kim, “In Relation to Animals, all People are Nazis: Holocaust and Slavery Analogies in the Animal Liberation Movement”

Also recommended:

Clarice Lispector, *The Passion According to G.H.*

Machado de Assis, *Quincas Borba*