

Animals in Culture
ALL 1905/ENGL 1905, Fall 2007
Instructor: Christine L. Marran

"Time flies like an arrow, but fruit flies like a banana" –Groucho M.

A man was driving down the road with twenty penguins in the back seat. A policeman stops him and says that he can't drive around with the penguins in the car and should take them to the zoo. The man agrees and drives off.

The next day the same man is driving down the road with twenty penguins in the back and again. He is stopped by the same police officer who says, "Hey! I though I told you to take those to the zoo."

The man replies "I did. Today I'm taking them to the movies."

Recently the animal has come into focus as a subject of great scholarly attention in the humanities, representing an exciting as well as intellectually varied and stimulating field. It is, in a sense, a time *of* the animal. But it is also a time *for* the animal—a time of unprecedented extinctions and of once unimaginable abuses. In this course we will follow the turn to the animal, asking along the way some fundamental questions: What is an animal? What makes the difference between the human and the animal? What constitutes human ethical treatment of animals? How have philosophers engaged the animal and to what ends? How has the animal been understood differently over time and in different cultures? Pursuing our questions we will read a variety of material (novels, newspapers, philosophy, films) from the west and Asia.

The objective of this course is to develop alacrity with the debates and terms used within the burgeoning field of animal studies. Issues of speciesism, ecofeminism, anthropomorphism, the marketing of animals, human and animal health and the animal in art will be examined in a range of materials including fiction, poetry, film and theoretical essays. Students will develop skills for reading critically and will finish the course with a keen eye for ways that ideas about animal affect our world.

Assignments

Students will be responsible for

- A. one in-class presentation of class material, which you may do with a partner or alone (30 points); please notify me as soon as possible which reading(s) you would like to present
- B. one paper on ecofeminism (30 points) due Sept 29
- C. four Q and A papers given to you throughout the semester to help guide your reading (10 points each for thoughtful completion)
- D. a final presentation on a topic of your choice which you may give alone or in groups of two or three (50 points)
- E. final exam of short answer, T/F, and one or two essay questions (50 points)

Course Total = 200 points

Weekly assignments consist of reading of 50-100 pages and/or film screenings.

Textbooks

Course packet, available at Paradigm Copy Center in the Dinkydome from Sept 17

My Year of Meats by Ruth Ozeki
Kirihito by Osamu Tezuka (graphic novel)
Planet of the Apes by Pierre Boulle
We3 by Morrison and Quitely (graphic novel)

*All materials are in the *course packet* except the above books and graphic novels and the first two weeks of materials, which will be given to you as handouts.

A late assignment will receive a five-point deduction for every 24 hours that it is late
Unexcused absences will mean the deduction of 3 points from your overall 200 total points for the course. Please bring a note from your doctor if you have been ill and missed class.

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SCHEDULE

The Animal and Human Culture: What is Culture when we include Animal?

September 5 (W)
Introduction to the Course

Contesting Local Traditions: Whaling, Pigeon Shoots, and Dog-Eating

September 10 (M)
“The Ambivalence of Whaling” by Jessamyn Abel in *Japanimals*

September 12 (W)
(2) “Harpooned: Japan and the Future of Whaling” by David McNeill from www.japanfocus.org
(3) “Japan and the Intensifying Global Whaling Debate” by David McNeill and Ian Mather from www.japanfocus.org
(4) “Whaling Ban on the Edge of Extinction” by Ian Mather from www.japanfocus.org
(5) “Whaling Report 2007” by Aiko Endo and Masahiro Yamao in *Marine Policy*, vol. 31 no. 2, March 2007, 1-23
(6) “The Whale and the Cherry Blossom Festival” by Barbara Peterson from www.japanfocus.org

Optional: (1) “Animal Practices and the Racialization of Filipinas in Los Angeles” by Griffith, Walsh, Laciter in *Society and Animals*, vol. 10, no. 3, 2002: PDF by request
(2) “Contesting Tradition: The Deep Play and Protest of Pigeon Shoots” by Simon J. Bronner, *Journal of American Folklore*, vol. 118, no. 470, Fall 2005, pp. 409-452: PDF by request

Sea Worlds:

Local and International Markets, and Animal Performance

September 17 (M)

- (1) “Local Dolphin Drives and International Sea World Markets” by Christine Marran
- (2) “North American Ocean Fauna” in *Green Screen* by David Ingram
- (3) “A Ringside Seat in the Making of a Pet Star” in *Reel Nature* by Gregg Mitman
- (4) “Japanese Dolphin Drive Hunts: Right or Wrong?” by Kjeld Duits from www.japanfocus.org
- (5) “Taiji: Japan’s Dolphin Cull and the Clash of Cultures” by David McNeill from www.japanfocus.org

Optional: “An Interview with Ric O’Barry on Dolphins in Japan: The Samurai Dolphin Man and the Japan Connection” PDF by request

Ecofeminism and A Novel Presentation of Factory Farming

September 19 (W)

- (1) “The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism,” by Karen Warren in *Environmental Philosophy*, 320-341
- (2) “Puppies, Pigs and People”: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases by Alastair Norcross, *Philosophical Perspectives*, vol. 18, *Ethics* (2004), pp. 229-244

September 24 (M)

My Year of Meats by Ruth Ozeki (course text), 1-197

September 26 (W)

My Year of Meats by Ruth Ozeki (course text), 198 - 361

Assignment #1 DUE: Write a three-page essay (double-spaced, times font 12) on the “ecofeminist” aspects of *My Years of Meats*. Use September 19th readings for your definitions of ecofeminism (20 points) DUE SEPT 26 at beginning of class

Trophy and Camera Hunting

October 1 (M)

- (1) “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” by Alastair Gunn in *Ethics and the Environment*, vol 6 no 1, 2001, pp.
- (2) “New Target: Women Hunters” by Dennis Anderson in *Star Tribune*, Aug 19, 2007
- (3) “Mentors Could Make All the Difference” by Dennis Anderson in *Star Tribune*, Aug 9, 2007
- (4) “Tale of Second Chances” by Dennis Anderson in *Star Tribune*, Sept 2, 2007
- (5) “Hunting and Conservation—A Nordic Perspective,” from www.cic-wildlife.org
- (6) “The Latest Fad in Internet Animal Cruelty: Pay-Per-View Hunting” from www.hsus.org

October 3 (W)

- (1) “Hunting With the Camera” in *Reel Nature* by Gregg Mitman
- (2) “Trophy Shots: Early North American Photographs of Nonhuman Animals and the Display of Masculine Prowess” by Matthew Brower, *Society and Animals*, vol. 13, no. 1 13-32

October 8 (M)

“Film and the History of the Visual Animal” by Jonathan Burt in *Animals in Film*

October 10 (W)

View and discuss the film *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* (2005) (83 min)

Religion and Animals: Shintoism's Ghostly Zoology

October 15 (M)

(1) View *Princess Mononoke* directed by Hayao Miyazaki (134 min) in Jones Hall 110
(2) "Drawing Animals: Zoomorphism in Princess Mononoke" by Sean Cubitt in *EcoMedia*, 25-42

October 17 (W)

(1) "The Extinction of the Japanese Wolf" by John Knight in *Asian Folklore Studies*, vol. 56, no. 1 (1997), 129-159
(2) "Werewolf in the Crested Komono: The Wolf-Human Dynamic in Anime and Manga" by Antonia Levi in *Mechademia*

Speciesism, Racism, and Humanism / Science Fiction

October 22 (M)

"Horses in Blackface: Visualizing Race as Species Difference in *Planet of the Apes*" by Susan Bridget McHugh in *South Atlantic Review*, vol. 65, no. 2 (2000), 40-72

October 24 (W)

Planet of the Apes by Pierre Boulle (course text)

October 29 NO CLASS

October 31 (W)

Kirihito by Osamu Tezuka (course text)

Science and Animals / Graphic Novel

November 5 (M)

(1) "Would You Let Your Child Die Rather than Experiment on Nonhuman Animals? A Comparative Questions Approach" by Katherine Perlo, *Society and Animals*, vol. 11, no. 1, 2003 (don't use next time)
(2) "Disney With Fangs" Interview with Morrison on *We3*. Read at:
<http://www.newsarama.com/pages/DC/We3.htm>

November 7 (W)

(1) "Of *Maus* and more: narrative, pleasure and talking animals" by Steven Baker in *Picturing the Beast*, 120-149
(2) *We3*, by Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely (course text)

Optional: "Public Attitudes Toward Animal Research: Some International Comparisons" by Linda Pifer, Kinya Shimizu, and Ralph Pifer in *Society and Animals*, Volume 2, Number 2, 1994 PDF by request

**Contaminated Edens:
DMZ, Chernobyl and Ecological Ironies of the Cold War**

November 12 (M)

View Award-winning documentary on the DMZ “Eden”, *The Boundary of Wilderness*

November 14 (W)

Read select newspaper articles and excerpts from *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman

Animal Lives / Poems

November 19 (M)

Read:

“The Eighth Elegy” by Rainer Maria Rilke

“Come Into Animal Presence” by Denise Levertov

November 21 (W) NO CLASS

Literature and the dog

November 26 (M)

“Across the widest gulf: nonhuman subjectivity in Virginia Woolf’s *Flush*” From *Twentieth Century Literature*, 2002

Read at

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0403/is_3_48/ai_102274349

November 28 (W)

Flush by Virginia Woolf

Read at

<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/>

Student presentations

December 3 (M)

Enjoy Student Presentations!

December 5 (W)

Enjoy Student Presentations! // Discuss the final

Conclusions

December 10

Enjoy Remaining Student Presentations!

Review for exam

December 12

Final: multiple choice, T/F, short essay format