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and by appointment

ENG 204: Animals, Literature and Culture

Course Objectives and Overview:

This course examines how animals define the crossroads of literary representations in several genres and cultural as well as cross-cultural formations. Writers have always turned to animal life to find moving symbols of human conditions and, with the insights of animal science research, more recently to gain a broader understanding of cognition and social development across species boundaries. By investigating this history of literary animal studies, this course aims to account for why species differences, especially between humans and animals, remain among the most enduring markers of social difference. In telling stories of dogs, for instance, as variously gods, pets, meat, or pests, humans mark irreconcilable cultural differences among themselves as well as set the limits of what (and who) counts as natural object and cultural subject. As we consider how species boundaries also intersect with historical constructions of gender, race, class, sex, and ethnicity, students will gain a broader sense of social and global awareness through assignments and discussions designed to illuminate how animal literatures intersect with these constructs.

Required Course Textbooks (available at UNE Bookstore):

J. R. Ackerley, We Think the World of You

Sue Coe, Dead Meat

J. M. Coetzee, The Lives of Animals

Linda Hogan, Power

Ruth Ozeki, My Year of Meats

May Sarton, The Fur Person

Art Spiegelman, Maus

Attendance:

You are expected to arrive prepared and on time for all class meetings. Attendance includes active participation, which is an important factor in determining your semester grade (15%). Tardiness equals absence. Each absence in excess of three will result in your final grade being dropped by one full letter grade per absence and any more than five will result in a failing grade for the course. In the event of your absence from class, you are responsible for learning the material covered and for making up in-class work. To ensure that you keep up with your coursework, you are strongly advised to notify your instructor in advance of any impending absences or tardiness. When you have not made prior arrangements to make up work, it normally will be given a failing grade. In order to be excused from this class, you must provide the instructor with adequate advanced notice and documentation. Unless you obtain prior permission from the instructor, all electronic devices must be turned off during class.

Students with disabilities should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) as well as the instructor to develop reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, contact OSD Coordinator Susan Church (e-mail schurch@une.edu, call 283-0170, extension 2815, or visit her office at 128 Stella Maris Building). Timely accommodations require early registration with OSD. For more information, visit their website (<http://www.une.edu/studentlife/dsd/index.html>).

Assignments:

All reading and writing assignments are to be completed before class time. Plan to read 50-100 pages of challenging material for each class meeting and come to each class prepared to discuss the assignments for that date. Because of the complexity of the readings, you should allow time to read each assigned text at least twice before the class for which it is due. Always bring copies of the readings to class discussions as well as pens and paper to take careful notes on class discussions. Unannounced, in-class quizzes and other short writing assignments will be used to verify your completion of the readings and these will be factored into your final grade. You should expect and prepare to respond to each reading for this course, whether in class discussions, surprise quizzes, or scheduled exams.

You will complete three comprehensive exams (15% each) and two short research projects (20% each) for the course. Each exam will address terms and passages from reading assignments and the format of each exam will be discussed ahead of time in class. We will discuss the specific requirements of each research project in class. In consultation with the instructor, each student will choose an appropriate topic, conduct research that includes scholarly sources (ask for help if you do not know what this means) on this topic, and develop a thesis about that topic. To facilitate planning and completing each of your projects, you are required to submit topic summaries and drafts by specific due dates. In the presentation, plan to present your thesis and support it with evidence to help classmates gain insight into the significance of your research. Be prepared to address questions from the class. Each presentation should last 10-15 minutes and a written version of the final draft (3-5 pp.) is due at that time. You are encouraged to work in small groups as part of the research assignments.

Be aware that multiple drafts (versions) and copies (duplicates) of the research assignments are required. Drafts are distinguished by revision, which means not simply addressing lower-order concerns like word choice and grammar. To revise your writing significantly across drafts, you must grapple with higher-order concerns like refinement of thesis, variation of evidence, incorporation of counterpoints, and paragraph organization. Grading criteria for essays will be discussed in the first few weeks of class. Printed copies of each draft must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date. Plan ahead to ensure that problems with printers and photocopiers won't compromise your grades. For these assignments, you must format your writing with one-inch margins all around, double spacing, and a ten-to-twelve-inch font. Proofread all of your writing before you bring it to class. Always include the following information on essay drafts: your name, the date, your instructor's name, and a title that reflects the unique content of your essay.

All students are strongly encouraged to seek help with their writing outside of class time as well, both from the Writing Resource Program (WRP) and from the instructor. The WRP is located within the Learning Assistance Center (across from the Alford Center) and on the Web at <http://www.une.edu/cas/lac/writing.html>. Stop by or call 283-0170, extension 2443, to schedule an appointment with a WRP tutor. To schedule an appointment with your instructor, talk with her before or after class, drop by her office (Marcil 207) during office hours (MW 11-12 p.m.), or e-mail (smchugh@pipeline.une.edu) or call (283-0170, extension 2615). To make the most of your appointments with a tutor or your instructor, always arrive prepared with copies of your assignments and your questions.

Remember that it is always your responsibility to save multiple back-up copies of all assignments that you submit. Late assignments of any kind will not be accepted without prior approval. Such arrangements must be requested before the due date. Acceptance of late assignments for a grade is contingent upon students providing documentation of extenuating circumstances through the appropriate UNE offices. Once assigned, all grades are final.

Academic Honesty:

All work you turn in for this class must be your own work, with all outside sources properly cited and acknowledged. The Student Handbook clarifies that academic dishonesty is prohibited at UNE and offers the following descriptive list:

- Cheating, copying, or the offering or receiving of unauthorized assistance or information.
- Fabrication or falsification of data, results, or sources for papers or reports.
- Action that destroys or alters the work of another student.
- Multiple submission of the same paper or report for assignments in more than one course without permission of each instructor.
- Plagiarism, the appropriation of records, research materials, ideas, or the language of other persons or writers and the submission of them as one's own.

Consult the University Conduct Code in the Student Handbook (online at <http://www.une.edu/studentlife/handbook/policies.html>) to remember your primary commitment to academic honesty. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive a 0.0 on the assignment or fail the course. In addition, the instance will be reported to the appropriate deans, who may take further action.

Composition of Course Grade:

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Authors and Issues Assignment	20%
Final Project	20%
Attendance/ Quizzes	15%

Course Grade	100%
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Schedule of Assignments (subject to change!):

Zoo Problems: Why Look at Animals?

Jan. 19 Course policies, Ranier Maria Rilke, “The Panther,” Ted Hughes, “The Jaguar” and “Second Glance at a Jaguar” (handout)

Jan. 21 Edgar Allen Poe, “Murders in the Rue Morgue”
(http://xroads.virginia.edu/~DRBR/poe_morg.html)

Jan. 24 Authors and Issues assignment/ sign-up and Franz Kafka, “A Report to an Academy” (handout)

Jan. 25 LAST DAY TO ADD/DROP

Jan. 26 Nigel Rothfels, “When Animals Speak” (handout)

Desperate Housepets: Domestication, Sex, and Gender

Jan. 28 Sarton, The Fur Person 7-59

Jan. 31 Sarton, The Fur Person 61-106

Feb. 2 Ackerley, We Think the World of You 3-71

Feb. 4 Ackerley, We Think the World of You 71-154

Feb. 7 Ackerley, We Think the World of You 154-211

Feb. 9 Caroline Knapp, from A Pack of Two (handout) and Anita Desai, “Diamond Dust” (handout)

Feb. 11 EXAM 1

Animal Masks: Ethnicity, History, and Visual Narrative

Feb. 14 In-class screening: The Sheik

Feb. 16 Spiegelman, Maus I: My Father Bleeds History, ch. 1-3

Feb. 18 Spiegelman, Maus I, ch. 4-6

Feb. 21 Spiegelman, Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began, ch. 1-2

Feb. 23 Spiegelman, Maus II, ch. 3-4

Feb. 25 Alice Walker, "Am I Blue" (handout)

Meat as Medium and Message

Feb. 28 Ozeki, My Year of Meats 1-83

Mar. 2 Ozeki, My Year of Meats 85-167

Mar. 4 Ozeki, My Year of Meats 169-284

Mar. 7 Ozeki, My Year of Meats 285-361

Mar. 9 In-class screening: Babe

Mar. 11 In-class screening and discussion: Babe

Mar. 14/16/18 NO CLASS--SPRING BREAK

Mar. 21 Coe, Dead Meat 37-72

Mar. 23 Coe, Dead Meat 72-100

Mar. 25 Coe, Dead Meat 101-36

Mar. 28 Coe, Dead Meat 1-35 (introduction by Alexander Cockburn)

Mar. 30 EXAM 2

Rewriting Extinction: Indigenous Voices and Animal Spirits

Apr. 1 In-class screening and discussion: Creature Comforts

Apr. 4 Hogan, Power 1-81

Apr. 6 Hogan, Power 83-147

Apr. 8 Hogan, Power 149-235

Apr. 11 In-class screening: Princess Mononoke

Apr. 13 In-class screening: Princess Mononoke

Apr. 15 In-class screening and discussion: Princess Mononoke

Writing beyond Species Boundaries: Poetry, Philosophy, and Fiction

Apr. 18 Coetzee, The Lives of Animals 5-45

Apr. 20 Coetzee, The Lives of Animals 47-69

Apr. 22 EXAM 3

Apr. 25/27/29 Final Presentations (Schedule TBA)

May 2 Everybody's Final Exam and Course evaluations