



Department of Philosophy & Religion

Syllabus:

ANIMAL ETHICS (PHI 381)

CRN 16091
MWF 10:10-11:00
Wallace 334
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2012

Instructor: **Matthew Pianto**

Office: Case Annex 259

Phone: 859-622-2979

E-mail: Matthew.Pianto@eku.edu

Web: <http://people.eku.edu/piantom>

Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1:30, TR 2:00-2:30

I. Catalog Course Description:

An examination of major theories of animal welfare and rights; consideration of issues involving the use of animals as food and other goods, animal experimentation, wildlife, endangered species, hunting and sport, pets, and zookeeping.

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing PHI 381, students should be able to:

1. Comprehend and clearly explain basic philosophical problems in animal ethics and the main philosophical and ethical theories designed to resolve them, as well as the key concepts that shape debates about animal welfare and animal rights.
2. Understand the relationship between views about animal minds and positions on the moral status of animals.
3. Evaluate the merit of various positions on issues in animal ethics, often by applying major theories of animal welfare or animals rights to specific problems.
4. Formulate and express their own views on significant theoretical and practical issues in animal ethics in a manner that is informed by, and critically engaged with, the thinkers, theories, and concepts studied in this course.

III. Required Texts:

Susan J. Armstrong and Richard G. Botzler, eds., *The Animal Ethics Reader*, 2nd Edition, (Routledge, 2008)

The Animals Lawsuit Against Humanity, trans. Anson Laytner (Fons Vitae, 2005)

Other texts (mostly articles, and possibly some supplementary videos or audio) will be provided via Blackboard or in class; see the Course Schedule Below for details

IV. Course Requirements (and Points) (% of Final Grade):

1. Quizzes & Other In-Class Activities (2 points each; 25 points total; can accumulate up to 30 points) (10%): Basic quizzes or other activities to ensure preparation, review basic concepts, launch discussion, etc. Quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made up; however, alternative assignments can be given in the case of *University-Excused Absences* and possibly in other extraordinary circumstances.
2. Weekly writing assignments (4 points each; 60 points total) (24%): These assignments will be related to daily classroom activities and may include (but are not limited to) response papers, argument analyses, and small research tasks. These assignments will be posted on Blackboard (and announced in class). Evaluation rubrics will be provided in assignment instructions.
3. Presentation (20 points) (8%): an approximately 5 minute overview of reading for a specific class day. Instructions and rubric will be posted on Blackboard by the second week of classes and students will

sign up at this time for a presentation slot. Presentations will take place over the course of the whole semester.

4. Mid-Term Essay/Paper Part 1 (40 points) (16%): A 3-4 page essay that will address basic questions explored up to the middle of the term, exhibit understanding of relevant concepts and frameworks, and require some analysis and argument. This essay will also serve as Part 1 of the Paper Project which is the centerpiece of this course (see below). Instructions and evaluation rubric will be provided well in advance. Essay will be due by Friday, October 5.
5. Paper Project Part 2 (30 points) (12%): A 2-3 page essay that will address key positions and arguments on either the use of animals as food or animal experimentation. This essay will also be Part 2 of the Paper Project (see below). Instructions and evaluation rubric will be provided well in advance. Essay will be due by Wednesday, November 7.
6. Final Essay (75 points) (30%): A 7-8 page essay in which students will revise Parts 1 and 2 above and discuss a second specific animal issue, and compose an overall analysis and conclusion. These parts will be integrated into a single cohesive essay which reflects understanding of relevant concepts and frameworks from throughout the semester, argumentation in support of a favored moral framework for assessing animal use and treatment, and application of that framework to the two animal issues. In effect, this paper is the final exam. Instructions and evaluation rubric will be provided well in advance. Essay will be due on Monday, December 10, and feedback will be e-mailed by Friday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. Papers can be picked up on that day from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. at my office (or later by arrangement). There is no separate final exam.

V. Student Evaluation & Student Progress:

The final grade for this class will be based out of 250 points as a 100%. The grading scale is:

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Points
A	90% or higher	225 or more
B	80%-89.99%	200-224
C	70%-79.99%	175-199
D	60%-69.99%	150-174
F	59.99% or below	149 or less

Grades will be posted (as points earned on the 250 point scale) on Blackboard. Some feedback will be provided on all weekly assignments and essays. At any point in the class, students concerned about their progress should contact the instructor.

Mid-term grades will be reported via EKUDirect, and will be submitted by Sunday, October 14, 2012.

VI. Attendance:

Attendance is essential to student success and regular attendance is expected. Students with 5 or more unexcused absences may, at the instructor's final discretion, receive an F for the course. Students are responsible for providing appropriate documentation for excused absences when requested.

VII. Make-ups & Late Work:

Work that is late without excuse and/or prior agreement with the instructor will be assessed a 10% penalty per day late (including weekends for work that can be e-mailed). It is each student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor in a timely fashion in order to make alternative arrangements when make-ups are necessary, and to provide appropriate documentation for excused absences upon request.

VIII. Academic Integrity Policy:

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at <http://studentrights.eku.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity. (You can also ask the instructor.)

In this course, the default sanction for any confirmed case of academic dishonesty is that the student will receive an F for the course. In all cases, violations of the Academic Integrity policy will be reported.

IX. Classroom Conduct:

Students are expected to act professionally and respectfully toward the instructor, students, and any classroom guests at all times. This includes **turning off and stowing electronic gadgets during class** (with the exception of devices used to take notes), paying attention, being punctual, and obtaining permission before recording class activities. Repeated failures to adhere to these standards of conduct may result in grade sanctions and other unhappy consequences (including the reporting of serious misconduct to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities).

X. Disability Statement:

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, **please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID** and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in the Student Services Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

X. Last Day to Drop This Course:

The last day you can withdraw from this course *without being charged a \$150 fee* is Sunday, September 16, 2012. After that, you can withdraw up to Friday, October 26, 2012, but will have to obtain the instructor's signature on a withdrawal form and will incur a \$150 withdrawal fee (\$50 per credit hour). This is official University policy.

XI. Official E-mail:

An official EKU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. *All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this EKU e-mail address.* That goes for this class, too.

COURSE SCHEDULE: PHI 381 Animal Ethics (Fall 2012)

Readings are listed on the day they will be discussed in class. Readings are from *Animal Ethics* (with inclusive pages given) unless otherwise indicated. Readings available online will be linked on Blackboard (and indicated as BB). This schedule is tentative and may be revised.

Week 1 (Aug. 20-24): Animals in the Western Tradition

M: Introduction

W: *Genesis*, Chs. 1 & 9 (BB)

Thomas Aquinas, excerpts from *Summa Contra Gentiles* on animals (BB)

Immanuel Kant, "Of Duties to Animals" (BB)

F: Jeremy Bentham on animals and suffering (BB)

Week 2 (Aug. 27-31): Animal Minds: Can They Suffer?

M: Daniel Dennett, "Animal Consciousness," 113-119

Bob Bermond, "A Neurophysiological and Evolutionary Approach to Animal Consciousness and Animal Suffering," 99-112

W: Marian Stamp Dawkins, "Animal Minds and Animal Emotions," 120-125

Griffin and Speck, "New Evidence of Animal Consciousness," 126-134

F: Bernard Rollin, "Animal Pain," 135-140

Week 3 (Sept. 3-7): Standard Welfare and Rights-Based Approaches to Animal Ethics

M: **LABOR DAY: NO CLASS (Sept. 3)**

W: Peter Singer, "Practical Ethics," 36-46

F: Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights," 19-25

Paola Cavalieri, "Are Human Rights *Human*?" 30-35

Week 4 (Sept. 10-14): Critical Perspectives & Other Possibilities in Animal Ethics

M: Carl Cohen, "Reply to Tom Regan," 26-29

R.G. Frey, "Rights, Interests, Desires and Beliefs," 55-58

W: Frederike Kaldewaij, "Animals and the Harm of Death," 59-62

F: Josephine Donovan, "Feminism and the Treatment of Animals," 47-54

Week 5 (Sept. 17-21): Critical Perspectives & Other Possibilities in Animal Ethics

M: Cora Diamond, "Eating Meat and Eating People" (BB)

W: Elizabeth Anderson, "Animals Rights and the Value of Nonhuman Life" (BB)

F: (continued)

Week 6 (Sept. 24-28): Non-Human Persons?

M: Mary Midgley, "Persons and Non-Persons" (BB)

Cavelieri, "Whales as Persons," 204-210

W: **ASSURANCE OF LEARNING DAY: NO CLASS (Sept. 26)**

F: Juan Carlos Gómez, "Are Apes Persons?" 169-174

Richard Epstein, "The Dangerous Claims of the Animal Rights Movement," 601-604

Week 7 (Oct. 1-5): Ethics, Animals, & Literature: The Wounded Animal

M: J.M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals*, Lecture I: The Philosophers & the Animals (BB)

REC: Franz Kafka, "A Report to an Academy" (BB)

W: J.M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals*, Lecture II: The Poets & the Animals (BB)

F: (continued)

MID-TERM ESSAY (PAPER PROJECT PART 1) DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:10 A.M., SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY ON BLACKBOARD AND IN HARD COPY

Week 8 (Oct. 8-12): Eating Animals

- M: James Rachels, "The Basic Argument for Vegetarianism," 260-267
W: David DeGrazia, "Meat-Eating," 219-224
 Temple Grandin, "Thinking Like Animals," 225-227
 Temple Grandin, "A Major Change," 228-231
F: Andrew Linzey, "The Bible and Killing for Food," 286-293

Week 9 (Oct. 15-19): Eating Animals

- M: Carol J. Adams, "The Rape of Animals, The Butchering of Women," 268-273
 Kathryn Paxton George, "A Paradox of Ethical Vegetarianism," 274-280
W: Steven Davis, "The Least Harm Principle May Require That Humans Consume [...] Large Herbivores," 243-247
 Recommended: Peter Wenz, "An Ecological Argument for Vegetarianism" (BB)
F: Adam Shriver, "Knocking Out Pain in Livestock" (BB)

Week 10 (Oct. 22-26): Experimenting on Animals

- M: Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights," 303-307
 David DeGrazia, "The Ethics of Animal Research," 308-316
W: Baruch Brody, "Defending Animal Research," 317-325
F: Lynda Birke, "Who—or What—Are the Rats (and Mice) in the Laboratory?" 326-333
 Petto and Russell, "Humane Education" 344-352

Week 11 (Oct. 29-Nov. 2): Modifying Animals

- M: David Morton, "Some Ethical Issues in Biotechnology Involving Animals," 371-377
 Robert and Baylis, "Crossing Species Boundaries," 377-386
W: Streiffer, "In Defense of the Moral Relevance of Species Boundaries," 387-389
 Kevin R. Smith, "Animal Genetic Manipulation: A Utilitarian Response," 390-397
F: Jeffrey Burkhardt, "The Inevitability of Animal Biotechnology?" 398-406

PAPER PROJECT PART 2 DUE BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 10:10 A.M., SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY ON BLACKBOARD AND IN HARD COPY

Week 12 (Nov. 5-9): Hunting Animals

- M: **FALL BREAK: NO CLASS (Nov. 5-6)**
W: Lawrence Cahoon, "Hunting as a Moral Good" (BB)
 Marti Kheel, "The Killing Game: An Ecofeminist Critique of Hunting," 454-463
F: Alastair S. Gunn, "Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting," 464-473

Week 13 (Nov. 12-16): Keeping Animals

- M: Dale Jamieson, "Against Zoos," 507-512
 Hutchins, Smith, and Allard, "In Defense of Zoos and Aquariums," 513-521
W: Randall Eaton, "Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity," 497-500
 Ralph Acampora, "Zoos and Eyes," 501-506
F: Clare Palmer, "Killing Animals in Animal Shelters," 570-578
 Leigh and Geyer, "The Miracle of Life," 579-582

Week 14 (Nov. 19-23): Predation in the Wild

M: McMahan, "The Meat-Eaters" (BB)

W: **THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS (Nov. 21-23)**

F: **THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS (Nov. 21-23)**

Week 15 (Nov. 26-30): Animals in the Wild

M: J. Baird Callicott, "The Philosophical Value of Wildlife," 439-443

Grace Clement, "The Ethic of Care and the Problem of Wild Animals," 444-450

W: Holmes Rolston III, "Duties to Endangered Species" (BB)

F: Vicki Hearne, "Job's Animals" (BB)

Week 16: (Dec. 3-7): Humanity on Trial

M: *The Animals Lawsuit Against Humanity*

W: *The Animals Lawsuit Against Humanity*

F: *The Animals Lawsuit Against Humanity*

FINAL ESSAY DUE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, BY 12:00 P.M. (NOON). FINAL FEEDBACK WILL BE E-MAILED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10:00 A.M., AND PAPERS CAN BE PICKED UP IN MY OFFICE FROM 9 A.M.-10 A.M. ON THAT DAY.