

University of Amsterdam  
Department of Media Studies

**Course 119217446: Animal Studies**

Drs. M.C.C.J. Reesink

E-mail: [m.c.c.j.reesink@uva.nl](mailto:m.c.c.j.reesink@uva.nl)

Semester 2 block 2 (2012-2013)

Elective Mediastudies

Undergraduate Certificate Programme in Humanities (for exchange students)

**Course description**

Gorilla Bokito in Blijdorp and (the late) polar bear Knut in Berlin, penguin Happy Feet in New Zealand and orca Morgan at the Dolfinarium. And: *Mickey Mouse* and *Garfield*, *Finding Nemo* and *Avatar*, *March of the Penguins* and BBC series like *Earth* and *Life*.

Animals have become prominent, not just in media but since recently in media studies (and disciplines like history, philosophy and ethics too). As animals occupy a greater and greater prominence in contemporary audiovisual and popular culture, we are also realizing how strongly our representations of them are culturally coded. Starting from this recognition, since the 1990s the new academic discipline under the name of Animal Studies has developed a theoretically informed perspective from the social sciences and the humanities (cultural studies in particular).

The lectures of the course offer an introduction to this new and internationally fast-developing field within the humanities (and the social sciences). Therefore, the course also fits for advanced students from other (like the above-mentioned) disciplines.

**Practical information**

"Animal Studies" is an elective, which runs during the first half of the first semester. It consists of seven lectures of two to three hours, of which one or more viewings form a part (so there are no workgroups). The main literature of the course is "Animals in film" by Jonathan Burt (Reaktion, 2002) and "Animal" by Erica Fudge (Reaktion, 2002).

The lecture sheets form part of the material to be studied for the exam. The additional articles that are published on Blackboard along with them do not belong to the compulsory literature; they are meant as supplementary literature for those students who want to read or know more about the specific subject.

Information study guide online: [http://studiegids.uva.nl/web/uva/2012\\_2013/nl/c/13031.html](http://studiegids.uva.nl/web/uva/2012_2013/nl/c/13031.html)

Course information: online on Blackboard

Also see (for lecture sheets in English): [www.AnimalStudies.nl](http://www.AnimalStudies.nl)

## Overview lectures

Week and date	Theme	Literature
	<b>Lectures: Wednesday 15.00 - 17.30</b>	
14. 3 April	<b>Introduction: animals in theory (philosophy)</b>	Baker <i>Picturing the beast</i> : "From massacred cats to lucky cows" Berger "Why look at animals?" Nagel "What is it like to be a bat?"
15. 10 April	<b>Animals in history</b>	Fudge <i>Animal</i> : Prologue, Part I Kalof <i>Animals in human history</i> : "Modernity, 1800-2000"
16. 17 April	<b>Guided tours Artis: 11.00, 13.00, 14.45</b>	
17. 24 April	<b>Animals in audiovisual culture</b>	Burt <i>Animals in film</i> : Prologue, Part I Chris <i>Watching wildlife</i> : "Introduction" Ingram <i>Green screen</i> : "Introduction", "Discourses of nature and environmentalism"
18. 1 May	<b>Animals in popular culture</b>	Fudge <i>Animal</i> : Part II Malamud "Animals on film" Malamud "Animated animal discourse"
19. 8 May	<b>Animals and human(e) culture (ethics)</b>	Burt <i>Animals in film</i> : Part II and III Molloy <i>Popular media and animals</i> : "Media and animal debates: welfare, rights, 'animal lovers' and terrorists"
20. 15 May	<b>Animals and 'animal culture' (biology)</b>	Fudge <i>Animal</i> : Part III De Waal <i>The ape and the sushi master</i> : "Down with dualism!"
21. 22 May	<b>Conclusion: animals, culture and society</b>	Malamud <i>A cultural history of animals in the modern age</i> : "Famous animals in modern culture" Fudge <i>Pets</i> : "Being with pets" <i>Animal</i> -series (chapter from title of choice)

## Literature

### Books

Burt, Jonathan  
*Animals in film*. Reaktion: London, 2002.

Fudge, Erica  
*Animal*. Reaktion: London, 2002.

*Animal-series* (chapter from title of choice)

### Chapters and articles

Baker, Steve  
"From massacred cats to lucky cows: history and *mentalités*" In: *Picturing the beast: Animals, identity and representation*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001, p. 3-32.

Berger, John  
"Why look at animals?" In: Linda Kalof, Amy Fitzgerald (eds.) *The animals reader: The essential classic and contemporary writings*. Berg: Oxford & New York, 2007, p. 251-261.

Chris, Cynthia  
"Introduction". In: *Watching Wildlife*. University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, 2006, p. ix-xxii.

Fudge, Erica  
"Being with pets". In: *Pets*. Acumen: London, 2008, p. 73-105.

Ingram, Ingram  
"Introduction", "Discourses of nature and environmentalism". In: *Green screen: Environmentalism and Hollywood cinema*. University of Exeter Press: Exeter, 2000, p. 1-24.

Kalof, Linda  
"Modernity, 1800-2000". In: *Animals in human history*. Reaktion: London, 2007, p. 137-164.

Malamud, Randy  
"Animals on film: the ethics of the human gaze". In: *Spring*, vol. 83 (2010), p. 135-60.

Malamud, Randy  
"Animated animal discourse". In: *The Chronicle Review*, vol. 54, nr. 8, p. B5.

Malamud, Randy  
"Famous animals in modern culture". In: *A cultural history of animals in the modern age*. Berg: Oxford & New York, 2007, p. 1-25.

Molloy, Claire  
"Media and animal debates: welfare, rights, 'animal lovers' and terrorists". In: *Popular media and animals*. Palgrave: London, 2012, p. 15-39.

Nagel, Thomas  
"What is it like to be a bat?" In: *Philosophical review*, vol. 83 (1974), nr. 4, p. 435-450.

Waal, Frans de  
"Down with dualism!" In: *The ape and the sushi master: cultural reflections by a primatologist*. Basic Books: New York, 2001, p. 337-357.

## Viewings

<b>Week and date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Viewings</b>
1. 3 April	<b>Introduction: animals in theory (philosophy)</b>	Intro: "Volg de Vos" (Follow the fox) DVD "Meeting John Berger"
2. 10 April	<b>Animals in history</b>	Intro: "Adam and dog" (Lee) Top 50 Disney animals
3. 24 April	<b>Animals in audiovisual culture</b>	Intro: "Cave of forgotten dreams" (Herzog) images by Muybridge / Marey clips from Wildlife-website BFI "Chasse a la panthere" "Zoo" / "Bij de beesten af" (Haanstra)
4. 1 May	<b>Animals in popular culture</b>	Intro: "A lion called Christian" "Old Yeller" / "Come home Lassie" "Chimpanzee" (Fothergill / Disney) "Project Nim" (Marsch)
5. 8 May	<b>Animals and human(e) culture (ethics)</b>	Intro: "Babe" (Noonan) "Le sang des bêtes" (Franju) "Dierenarts" / "The meatrix" "Facing animals" (IJken) PvdD-lecture Will Kymlicka
6. 15 May	<b>Animals and 'animal culture' (biology)</b>	Intro: "Life of mammals" (BBC) "Microcosmos" (Nuridsany) "Super smart animals" (BBC) TED-lecture Frans de Waal "Feral children" (National Geographic)
7. 22 May	<b>Conclusion: animals, culture and society</b>	Intro: "Grizzly man" (Herzog) National Geographic-cheetah "Bear 71" ( <a href="http://bear71.nfb.ca/#/bear71">http://bear71.nfb.ca/#/bear71</a> ) "I do not know what it is I am like" (Viola) "Schoffies" (Van Fucht)