

21H.909
PEOPLE AND OTHER ANIMALS

Fall 2005
TR 2:30-4
Room E51-057

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Stellar website: <http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/21H/fa05/21H.909/>

Subject Description

A historical survey of the ways that people have interacted with their closest animal relatives, for example: hunting, domestication of livestock, worship of animal gods, exploitation of animal labor, scientific study of animals, display of exotic and performing animals, and pet keeping. Themes include changing ideas about animal agency and intelligence, our moral obligations to animals, and the limits imposed on the use of animals.

Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the Coop or from various online vendors, including: <http://www.booktrak.com/>

Anita Guerrini, *Experimenting with Humans and Animals* (Johns Hopkins University Press)

Vicki Hearne, *Adam's Task* (Akadine Press)

Harriet Ritvo, *The Animal Estate* (Harvard University Press)

Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty* (Signet)

Noelie Vialles, *Animal to Edible* (Cambridge University Press)

H. G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (Penguin)

Other readings can be accessed via the class website.

Written Assignments

There will be four 5 to 6-page papers, due in class on September 22, October 20, November 10, and December 13.

Schedule of Classes

September 8 Introduction: Animals and Us

- September 13-15 The Hunt
 AE, ch 6
 Jim Corbett, Man-Eaters of Kumaon, introduction, ch. 1
 George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant"
 (http://orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e_eleph)
 1900 African Fauna Convention
 Issue: Endangered species Whale conservation
- September 20-22 Domestication and Breeding
 AE, ch.1
 Juliet Clutton-Brock, Natural History of Domesticated Mammals,
 pp. 9-112

 PAPER 1 DUE 9/22
- September 27-29 Meat
 Harriet Ritvo, The Platypus and the Mermaid, ch. 5
 Noelle Vialles, Animal to Edible

 Issue: Vegetarianism
- October 4-6 Animal Exploitation and Animal Protection
 AE, ch 3
 Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
 Issue: Fox-hunting in Britain
- October 11-13 NO CLASS
- October 18-20 Vivisection and Antivivisection
 Anita Guerrini, Experimenting with Humans and Animals, chs.4-6,
 conclusion
 MIT Committee on Animal Care:
<https://web.mit.edu/compmed/Restrict/CAC/index.html>

 PAPER 2 DUE 10/22
- October 25-27 Animals and Infection
 AE, ch 4
 Ritvo, Harriet: "Mad cow mysteries," American Scholar (67:2)
 Spring 1998, 113-122. (J-Stor)
 British Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (BSE):
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html>
 US Department of Agriculture (BSE):
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/BSE/>

- November 1-3 Pets
 AE, ch. 2
 Vicki Hearne, Adam's Task, chs 2-4, 8-10
 Konrad Lorenz, Man Meets Dog, chs. 4,6,17
 View Best in Show
- November 8-10 Zoos and Menageries
 AE, ch.5
 Susan Davis, Spectacular Nature, introduction, ch. 6, conclusion
- PAPER 3 DUE 11/10
- November 15-17 Studying Animals: Naturalists and Museums
 AE, Introduction
 Donna Haraway, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936", Social Text 11 (Winter, 1984), pp. 20-64 (J-Stor)
 Issue: How human are animals?
- November 22 Studying Animals: Field Observation, Experimentation and Imagination
 H. G. Wells, The Island of Dr. Moreau
- November 24 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
- November 29-
 December 1 Studying Animals: Field Observation and Ethology
 Jane Goodall, In the Shadow of Man, chs. 1-3
 Sara Hrdy, The Woman That Never Evolved, ch. 1
 Birute Galdikas, Reflections of Eden, chs. 1-4
 Dian Fossey, Gorillas in the Mist, chs. 1-3
- December 6-8 Studying Animals: Documentary Film
 Gregg Mitman, Reel Nature, prologue, chs. 1 and 8, epilogue
 View David Attenborough, The Life of Mammals (selections)
- December 13 Last class; discussion of documentary papers
- PAPER 4 DUE

Things to Remember

Written assignments should represent original and individual work.

Assignments are to be handed in on time. If an extension becomes necessary it should be requested ahead of the due date. Otherwise, lateness will be penalized.

Attendance is important. Not all the material to be covered in class is included in the readings. Be sure to bring your copy of the readings to discussion classes.

Grading will be based on the three written assignments, the oral presentation, and class participation (including informal reflections), weighted as follows: paper 1--1/6; paper 2--1/6; paper 3--1/3; oral presentation--1/6; class participation--1/6.