

**Animal Rights and Animal Welfare:  
An Animal Studies Seminar  
Summer II, 2011  
46.331**

**M/T/W/Th 12:30-2:30**  
**Office Hours: by appointment**  
**South Campus, Coburn 100**

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**Course Description:** The field of “animal studies” is a new academic domain with many names, definitions, and areas of concentration. Interdisciplinary work in the field engages with a wide range of disciplines, from the humanities through the social and ‘hard’ sciences. Some areas of inquiry focus on animals in literature or film, while others look at nonhuman animals through the lenses of feminist and queer theory. A range of other disciplines, from anthropology and history to biology and geography, are all emerging as components of the field. This course focuses on normative ethics, animal cognition, animal law, public policy, and how we interact with animals as: companions, wild or free-roaming animals, food, entertainment, and research subjects.

We will be engaging with material from various disciplines—which can be challenging at times, given the specialized jargon often found in various disciplinary texts—but our focus will be on the following question: how does the structure of the human-nonhuman animal relationship inform public policies on issues impacting animals?

In a course of this nature, it is disingenuous to feign neutrality when it comes to animal-advocacy based research, as the decisions being debated are precisely those about which animal advocacy organizations and other interests group debate. Nonetheless, every effort will be made to understand as many perspectives as possible; this is not ‘a course about animal rights’, and the views in favor of using animals in food production or biomedical research will be presented, as will those opposed and some in between. You are expected to be respectful of any opinions presented, even—or especially—if they are very different from your own.

**Course Wiki:** The website for the course is [ikesharpless.pbworks.com](http://ikesharpless.pbworks.com)

**Required Text:** you must have the following text in class as needed. I recommend that you buy this book from a used online site like [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com). If you do so, however, be sure to buy the book with enough advanced notice to have it when the course begins.

- Armstrong, Susan J. and Richard G. Botzler, eds. *The Animal Ethics Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Routledge: New York, 2008.

**Grading**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Short Paper (and in-class exercise): NGO Case Study (15%)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Short Paper (25%): Reading Response – Compare & Contrast
- Bi-weekly online assignments (20%)
  - 20% of this grade will be based on student uploads to the pbworks website (2% each, due 2 hours before class, but preferably the evening prior. There are eleven upload dates (most Mondays and Wednesday), and you have to do ten.

- Although there is no specific grade for in-class participation, active and productive participation will help if your final grade is hovering between two grades; the inverse, regarding poor participation, is also true.
- Final Paper (40%)
  - Outline (5%)
  - Rough Draft (5%)
  - Final Draft (30%)
- Attendance (variable, as much as -20%)
  - I will take attendance each class. Two unexcused absences throughout the course will be permitted, but each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by a third of a letter.

**Note on Late Papers:** Be sure to carefully check your work for spelling errors and grammatical flow. You can rewrite your short paper if you are dissatisfied with your grade, and I will average the two grades. I will also dock your grade by a third of a letter grade for every unexcused calendar day (*not* class day) a paper is overdue.

**Formatting guidelines:** This information will be provided again when we discuss writing assignments, but here is the gist of my formatting requirements: have an engaging title, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, double spaced, no spaces between paragraphs, justified, with page numbers, parenthetical citations and bibliography. Also: any citations longer than 3 lines should be indented on both sides, 10-pt font, single spaced, and without quotation marks.

**Citation Policy:** Use whichever standard citation format works for you (i.e., MLA, Chicago, etc.), but use the same throughout your work and be sure that all relevant information is included. Because this is a high-level research seminar, you will be expected to cite your sources properly. Note: while useful for reference, Wikipedia is not a valid citation source.

**NGO Analysis Guidelines:** Additional details on this assignment will be provide in class, but this **three page** written assignment should: pick a Non-Governmental Organization that is a relevant actor in an animal protection issue (You're welcome to pick either an animal advocacy organization like the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), a livestock trade group like the Animal Ag Alliance (AAA), or a pro-biomedical research group like the Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR). Your paper should, at the very least, answer the following questions: Who is their audience? What are their core subjects? What tactics do they use? What kind of a budget do they have, and how do they get their money? Do you think they're an effective organization? Why or why not?

**Reading Response Guidelines:** Select two related works we've read, and compare and contrast their strengths and weaknesses. This assignment should demonstrate both an understanding of the authors' key ideas and some critiques of their potential shortcomings. This paper should be **4-6 pages long**; clarity is valued over length. In essence, what I am looking for is a balance between demonstrating that you've thoroughly read the works in question (and aren't just regurgitating the class notes) and an engagement with your critical views on those works—too much of your opinion and I can't tell that you've done the reading, and too much outlining the text and I don't get any sense that you've grappled critically with the text at all.

**Research Paper Guidelines:** Full guidelines will be distributed in class. Generally, though, this paper should address one or more of the issues we discuss in class, but should do so in greater detail. I will be soliciting topics throughout the course, and you will have to submit an outline and a rough draft, both of which will be graded on an all-or-nothing basis. Unless we agree on a different format, your paper has to be **10-12 pages long**, and you need to have **at least 15 unique sources**. (Alternate format: If you would prefer to engage in a hands-on final project with a less research-oriented written component, I am happy to discuss this option. We will discuss this more thoroughly in class. Less traditional formats—including fictional works, grant proposals, and the like—would also be welcome, but *only* if you approach me well in advance.)

**Student Upload Guidelines:** You are expected to upload a relevant link, video, or other media source with a comment relating the ideas of the thinkers we are discussing to a pertinent current issue. The mechanism for logging on to the pbworks site will be explained in class. If, however, you are ever unable to upload a link to the website, just send me your link and comment and I will upload them for you. Unless I specify otherwise, the links should be related to the ideas covered in any class since the previous upload (i.e., the most recent two or three class sessions). If possible, you should also try to leave a comment on at least a few other students' posts throughout the semester—while not officially graded, I will consider giving you extra credit if you post a lot of comments.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what does and does not constitute plagiarism, refer first to the UMass Lowell Undergraduate Catalogue under 'Academic Integrity'. If you have further questions, please contact me by email, phone, or in person. I would much prefer to clarify a small confusion than be forced to give you a failing grade in the class.

**Citation Policy:** Use whichever standard citation format works for you (i.e., MLA, Chicago, etc.), but use the same throughout your work and be sure that all relevant information is included. Because this is a high-level research seminar, you will be expected to cite your sources properly. Note: while useful for reference, Wikipedia is not a valid citation source.

## Course Outline

**nota bene – reading assignments are subject to revision anytime up to the class prior to their assignment. If you miss a class, be sure to verify the next day's readings by checking the pbworks website. I may add or cut some readings on a day-to-day basis.**

**Monday, July 11 – Introduction and Policies, Pbworks Tutorial, 'Personal Archaeologies'**

**Tuesday, July 12 – The Animals we Know: Animals as Companions**

- Armstrong and Botzler (hereafter Armstrong), Part Nine: Animal Companions (542-583)
  - Bernard E. Rollin and Michael D. H. Rollin, "Dogmaticisms and Catechisms: Ethics and Companion Animals" (546-550)
  - Clare Palmer, "Killing Animals in Animal Shelters" (570-578)

**Wednesday, July 13 – Introducing Animal Ethics**

- Tom Regan, “The Case for Animal Rights” (Armstrong 19-26)
- Peter Singer, “Practical Ethics” (Armstrong 36-46)
- Carl Cohen, “Reply to Tom Regan” (Armstrong 26-29)
- R.G. Frey, “Rights, Interests, Desires and Beliefs” (Armstrong 55-58)
- First pbworks upload

#### **Thursday, July 14 – Introducing Public Policy**

- Deborah Stone, “Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas” (pbworks)
- Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)

#### **Monday, July 18 – NGO Case Study**

- Read relevant paper I co-wrote, “Framing PETA and McDonald's” (pbworks)
- Come to class prepared to answer the following questions about a relevant NGO's website: who is their audience? What are their core subjects? What tactics do they use? What kind of a budget do they have, and how do they get their money? Do you think they're an effective organization? Why or why not?
- Second pbworks upload [use the upload space to post the website of the organization you'll be discussing, any relevant links, and a paragraph with your response to the above questions]
- First short paper due

#### **Tuesday, July 19 – Animal Consciousness**

- Daniel Dennett, “Animal Consciousness: What Matters and Why” (Armstrong)
- Marian Stamp Dawkins, “Animal Minds and Animal Emotions” (Armstrong)
- Bernard E. Rollin, “Animal Pain” (Armstrong)

#### **Wednesday, July 20 – Primates and Cetaceans**

- Mark Bekoff, “Deep Ethology, Animal Rights, and the Great Ape/Animal Project: Resisting Speciesism and Expanding the Community of Equals” (Armstrong)
- Jane Goodall et al, “Cultures in Chimpanzees” (Armstrong)
- Mark Peter Simmonds, “Into the Brains of Whales” (Armstrong)
- Paola Cavalieri, “Whales as Persons” (Armstrong)
- Third pbworks upload

#### **Thursday, July 21 – Wild (or “Free-Roaming”) Animals, day 1**

- Aldo Leopold, “Game and Wildlife Conservation” (Armstrong) and “Thinking Like a Mountain” (to be provided)
- Alastair S. Gunn, “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” (Armstrong)
- Ned Hettinger, “Exotic Species, Naturalisation, and Biological Nativism” (Armstrong)

#### **Monday, July 25 – Wild Animals, day 2: Focus on Hunting**

- Alastair S. Gunn, “Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting” (Armstrong)
- Dale Peterson, “To Eat the Laughing Animal” (Armstrong 485-489)
- Marti Kheel, “The Killing Game: An Ecofeminist Critique” (Armstrong 454-463)
- Fourth pbworks upload

**Tuesday, July 26 – Animals as Food, day 1**

- Temple Grandin, “Thinking Like Animals” and “A Major Change” (Armstrong)
- Michael Appleby, “Food Prices and Animal Welfare”
- Animal Agriculture Alliance, “Animal Agriculture: Myths and Facts” (Armstrong)

**Wednesday, July 27 – Animals as Food, day 2: Focus on Diet and Food Choices**

- Steven L. Davis, “The Least Harm Principle May Require That Humans Consume a Diet Containing Large Herbivores, not a Vegan Diet” (Armstrong 243-247)
- James Rachels, “The Basic Argument for Vegetarianism” (Armstrong 260-267)
- Kathryn Paxton George, “A Paradox of Ethical Vegetarianism: Unfairness to Women and Children” (Armstrong 274-280)
- Fifth pbworks upload

**Thursday, July 28 – Special Session on Food Politics**

- Michael Pollan, "Farmer in Chief":  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?_r=1)
- "The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-Intellectuals":  
[http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/article\\_print](http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/article_print)
- Second short paper due

**Monday, August 1 – Animals as Symbols**

- John Berger, “Why Look at Animals” (Kalof 251-261 – also to be provided online)
- Sixth pbworks upload

**Tuesday, August 2 – Animals as Experimental Subjects, day 1**

- David DeGrazia, “The Ethics of Animal Research” (Armstrong)
- Baruch Brody, “Defending Animal Research” (Armstrong)
- F. Barbara Orlans, “Ethical Themes of National Regulations Governing Animal Experiments: An International Perspective”

**Wednesday, August 3 – Animals as Experimental Subjects, day 2**

- Readings to be provided on pbworks site
- Seventh pbworks upload

**Thursday, August 4 – Focus on Biotechnology**

- David Morton, “Some Ethical Issues in Biotechnology Involving Animals” (Armstrong)
- Kevin R. Smith, “Animal Genetic Manipulation: A Utilitarian Response” (Armstrong)
- Final paper outline due

**Monday, August 8 – Animals in Education and Entertainment (Focus on Zoos)**

- Randall L. Eaton, “Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity” (Armstrong)
- Dale Jamieson, “Against Zoos” (Armstrong)
- Michael Hutchins *et al*, “In Defense of Zoos and Aquariums” (Armstrong)
- Eighth pbworks upload

**Tuesday, August 9– Animal Law, day 1**

- Steven Wise, “A Great Shout: Legal Rights for Great Apes” (Armstrong)
- Richard Posner, “Book Review of *Rattling the Cage*” (Armstrong)
- Richard Epstein, “The Dangerous Claims of the Animal Rights Movement” (Armstrong)
- Supplemental readings to be provided

**Wednesday, August 10 – Animal Law, day 2**

- Supplemental reading packet to be provide
- Ninth pbworks upload (pick a case from the packet I provide, and write about it)

**Thursday, August 11 – Special Session on Writing and Research Methods**

- Final paper rough draft due
  - At least four pages and five sources needed

**Monday, August 15 – Animals and Economics: Revisiting the Farm**

- Jennifer Fearing and Gaverick Matheny, “The Role of Economics in Achieving Welfare Gains for Animals.” (pbworks)
- Tenth pbworks upload

**Tuesday, August 16 – First Case Study: Navy Sonar & Cetaceans**

- [skim for context] Sharpless, “Winter v. NRDC” (pbworks)
- [dense – skim if needed] Parsons *et al*, “Navy Sonar and Cetaceans” (pbworks)
- Stocker, “Ocean Bioacoustics, Human-Generated Noise and Ocean Policy” (pbworks)

**Wed. August 17 – Second Case Study: The Endangered Species Act**

- Short 'ESA basics' crib sheet from the US FWS (pbworks)
- Schwartz, “The Performance of the Endangered Species Act” (pbworks)
- [Reread, skim if needed] Czech and Krausman, “Traditional Analyses of the ESA” (pbworks)
- Eleventh pbworks upload

**Thursday, August 18 – Recapitulation & Final Paper Discussions**

- Peter Singer, “Ten Ways to Make a Difference” (Armstrong 627)
- Final paper due