

Animal Subjects

Fall 2005

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Texts to Purchase:

J.M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals*

Virginia Woolf, *Flush*

Reader available at Green Copy.

Class Responsibilities:

1. Class Participation. More than three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your grade.
2. 2 Take-home exams 10/14, 11/16
3. Final paper-project: Students may work alone or in pairs to give a presentation to the class on a topic of their choice related to the issues raised in class. Students may wish to pursue a more in-depth study of a particular topic, author, or artist encountered in class or present new texts or objects related to the issues discussed. In addition to the class presentation, students will turn in a final paper that analyzes the texts or objects in relation to issues raised by the readings in class. These papers must be individual work and should be in academic paper format.
4. Weekly online journal: Once a week (either Tuesday or Thursday by 11:00AM), students will respond to the reading in an email message to me.

Syllabus

Animal/Human Being

9/6 Introduction

9/8 Harriet Ritvo, *The Animal Estate*, Chapter 1: "The Nature of the Beast." Pattiann Rogers, "Animals and People"

9/13 S. Wise, *Rattling the Cage*, Chaps. I-II; Singer and Regan eds., *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*. Part I, "Animals in the History of Western Thought"; Freud, "footnote."

9/15 Rainer Maria Rilke, "The Eighth Elegy"; Kafka; Vicki Hearne, *Adam's Task*, Chap. 1

9/20 Vicki Hearne, 3, 4; Fouts and Fouts, "Chimpanzees Use of Sign Language"

9/22 Erica Fudge, *Animal*, pp. 113-41. Kaka, "Report to an Academy"

9/27 Temple Grandin, *Thinking in Pictures*, 19-42, 194-205.

9/29 Alphonso Lingis, "Bestiality" in *Animal Others*, ed. Peter Steeves; Linda Hogan, "First People."

10/4 Gilles Deleuze, "Becoming Animal" from *The Deleuze Reader* ; Hélène Cixous, "Shared at Dawn"

10/6 Steve Baker, "What does Becoming Animal Look Like?" in Rothfels, *Representing Animals*

10/12 Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" **Take-Home I Due**

10/14 Metamorphosis, cont.; Ursula Leguin, "The Wife's Story"

Pets and other Human –Animal Relations

10/18 Keith Thomas, *Man and the Natural World*, Chap. III; Marc Shell, "The Family Pet" pp. 121-30; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "To Flush My Dog"

10/20 Virginia Woolf, *Flush*, Chaps., 1-5

10/25 *Flush*, cont., chaps., 6-end; Kathleen Kete, *The Beast in the Boudoir*; chap. 4.

10/27 Film (TBA)

11/1 Kete, "Cats and Categorization"; Edgar Allen Poe, "The Black Cat;" Rilke, "The Black Cat."

11/3 Richard Klein, "The Power of Pets"; Fudge, *Animal*, pp. 27-46

Animal Objects

11/8 John Berger, "Why Look at Animals?" in *About Looking*"; *Zoo*, Part I.

11/10 Film: Bill Viola, "I do not know what it is I am like"

11/15 C. Russell, "Zoology, Pornography, Ethnography,"

11/17 Nigel Rothfels, "Immersed with Animals;" Rilke, "The Panther," "The Flamingos;" Ted Hughes, "The Jaguar," Margaret Atwood, "The Dreams of the Animals" **Take-Home II Due.**

Animal Rights and Wrongs

11/22 Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals*, pp. 15-69

11/24 **Thanksgiving**

11/29 Coetzee, cont. 69-120 **Visit to Oakland Zoo**

12/1 Peter Singer, "All Animals are Equal," Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights," R.G.Frey, "The Case Against Animal Rights;" Peter Singer, Introduction," David De Grazia, "On the Question of Personhood beyond *Homo Sapiens*"

12/6 Fudge, *Animal*, pp. 92-110; Anker and Nelkin, "Blurring Boundaries, Chimeras and

Transgenics," Edouardo Kac, "Transgenic Art" "GFP Bunny"

12/8 Matthew Scully, *Dominion*, Intro., chaps 1-2; Atwood, "Pig Song," "Bull Song," "The Double Voice"

12/13-12/15 **Final Presentations**

