



MASTER SYLLABUS

SSCI 306: ANIMALS, PEOPLE and SOCIETY

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**SCHOOL of BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
Fall 2021**

- A. **TITLE: ANIMALS, PEOPLE and SOCIETY**
- B. **COURSE NUMBER: SSCI 306**
- C. **CREDIT HOURS: 3 Lecture Hours per Week for 15 Weeks**
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: No**
- E. **GER CATEGORY: None**
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Fall or Spring**

G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will critically explore the evolving relationship between humans and other animals. Applying an interdisciplinary framework, we will draw from scientific, philosophical, and cross-cultural approaches to engage topics from the field of Human Animal Studies. Discussion will focus on animal-human borders, animal rights, our relationship with wildlife, the link between animals and human oppression, and modern human-animal collaborations. We will explore the complexity of animal roles in society, and the varied meanings assigned to them, as pets, partners, entertainment, therapeutic and rehabilitative assistants, spiritual symbols, test subjects, and livestock. Students will have the opportunity to engage in discipline-specific research opportunities relating the significance of animals to their field, while also expanding their overall interdisciplinary knowledge.

H. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES: None

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

<i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i>	<i>ISLO & Sub-Sets</i>
a. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, models and issues from human-animal studies.	#2 [CA]
b. Examine interactions between humans and nonhuman animals and the roles of nonhuman animals in traditional, modern, and postmodern society.	#2 [CA]
c. Synthesize patterns in the human-animal relationship as they connect to broader cultural, economic, scientific, and political institutions.	#2 [CA]
d. Assess the links between the oppression of nonhuman animals and the exploitation of human beings in contemporary social problems.	#4 [ER]
e. Understand and apply social science research methods to human-animal relationships, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis.	#2 [CA]

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: X No

K. TEXTS:
DeMello, M. (2012). *Animals and society: An introduction to human-animal studies*. Columbia University Press. ISBN-10: 0231152957 ISBN-13: 978-0231152952

L. REFERENCES:

- Armstrong, Susan J. and Richard G. Botzler, eds. *The Animal Ethics Reader*, 2nd edition. Routledge: New York, 2008.
- Bulliet, R. W. (2005). *Hunters, herders, and hamburgers: The past and future of human-animal relationships*. Columbia University Press. ISBN: 9780231130776.
- Coetzee, J. M. (2016). *The lives of animals* (Vol. 43). Princeton University Press.
- Fine, A.H. (2010). *Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy: Foundations and Guidelines for Animal-Assisted Interventions*. Elsevier, Amsterdam.
- Flynn, C. (ed.) (2005). *Social creatures*. Lantern Press. ISBN: 9781590561232.
- Fudge, E. (2007). *Animal*. Reaktion Press. ISBN: 9781861891341.
- Gruen, Lori. 2015. *Entangled Empathy: An Alternative Ethic for Our Relationships with Animals*. New York: Lantern Books.
- Haraway, D. J. (2013). *When species meet* (Vol. 3). U of Minnesota Press.
- Haraway, D. J. (2003). *The companion species manifesto: Dogs, people, and significant otherness* (Vol. 1, pp. 3-17). Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.
- Herzog, H. (2011). The impact of pets on human health and psychological well-being: fact, fiction, or hypothesis?. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 20(4), 236-239.
- Herzog, H. (2010). *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight about Animals*. Harper Collins.
- Kalof, Linda. 2007. *Looking at Animals in Human History*. London: Reaktion Books
- Kalof, L. & Fitzgerald, A. (2007). *The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings*. New York: Berg.
- Kirksey, E & S Helmreich 2010 The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography *Cultural Anthropology* 25 (4) 545-576
- Locke, P & U Münster (2015). *Multispecies Ethnography*. Oxford Bibliographies. Online.

M. EQUIPMENT: Blackboard LMS

N. GRADING METHOD: A -F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

- Discussion Boards
- Quizzes
- Journal Entries
- Essay/Research Paper
- Research Project & Presentation

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Animal-Human Borders
 - A. Defining the animal
 - 1. Theory of mind
 - B. Speciesism

- C. Anthropomorphism
- D. Social construction of animals
- E. Epistemology

II. Wild Animals & Human Societies

- A. Historical relationships
- B. Modern relationships
 - 1. Hunting and Conservation
 - 2. Human-Wildlife Conflicts

III. Animal Politics

- A. Moral and ethical status of animals
- B. Animal rights movement
- C. Legal status of animals

IV. Animal Uses in Society

- A. Consuming animals and animal products
- B. The pet animal
- C. Animal research and testing

V. Human-Animal Social Problems

- A. Violence and animals
- B. Human oppression and animal suffering
- C. Environmental hazards

VI. Animals in Human Culture

- A. Art & Language
- B. Religion & Folklore
- C. Literature & Film
- D. Display, Performance, and Sport

VII. Animal-Assisted Activities

- A. Working animals
- B. Assistance animals
- C. Animal-assisted therapy