Course Description

This course examines the roles that various species of animals play as companions to humans. We will work to expand and problematize the concept of companion species by focusing not only on traditional companions, but also those who are unwilling companions in our lives. By looking to a range of cultural texts, this course takes up questions that look at companion animal relationships from all sides, such as: Who do we consider companions? How does a companion animal relationship influence both human and animal lives, families, homes, and deaths? Can we learn to stretch the designation of companion to animals who live in close proximity to us, but are hard to love?

Required Texts (subject to change)

Donna Haraway *When Species Meet* (2008)
Helen Macdonald *H is for Hawk* (2015)
Karen Joy Fowler *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* (2014)
Ruth Ozeki *A Tale for the Time Being* (2013)
Takashi Hiraide *The Guest Cat* (2016)
Kornél Mundruczó *White God* (film 2015)
Plus critical essays.