In this course we critically survey developments in science and philosophy which provided much of the impetus for the emergence of Animal Studies. We begin by seeing that many of the debates that occur today were already in play in the Hellenistic world. From there we leap across centuries to take a quick look at 17th and 18th century philosophy, and then to 19th century developments in science and the origins of the modern animal protection movement. We go on to examine 20th and 21st century developments in science including the rise of Behaviorism, Classical Ethology, Cognitive Ethology, and Comparative Psychology. We examine precursors to Peter Singer’s landmark *Animal Liberation* (1975), and sample the wealth of philosophical reflection
that has developed in its wake. We end by confronting some challenges in trying to live a non-speciesist life.

**Instructor**

Dale Jamieson, 285 Mercer Street, Room 705/707, dwj3@nyu.edu; office hours Th 2-5, and by appointment.

**Requirements**

The first and most fundamental requirement is attending and participating in every class. The quality of your participation will count for 15% of your course grade.

The second requirement is to write a short comment or question concerning the readings for each of at least 10 classes. The postings are due by 12am on the morning of each class and must relate to the readings for that day’s class. You will receive no credit for postings after 8am on the day of the class. Please write your comment, send it to me, and then post it on the “forum” section of the course “classes” site. Please read all the posts before coming to class, but please do not read any of them before writing your own. The quality of your postings will count for 15% of your course grade.

The third requirement is to write one or two essays, totaling about 4-5 thousand words. If you write 2 essays the first is due on November 5th, and the second is due on December 17th. If you write one essay you will also be expected to workshop the paper in class on November 5th and to submit it on December 17th. The quality of your essay(s) will count for 70% of your course grade. Late papers will be accepted, but will be reduced by one grade per day unless you provide a valid, timely excuse relating to morbidity or mortality. By October 25th please let me know which option you will be choosing, and have one paper approved by me.

**Format**

Each session of the class will normally be divided into 2 parts with a short break in the middle. Each class will begin with a short presentation by me providing background to the topics, identifying and reacting to important points in the reading, and incorporating your postings in a way that will segue into class discussion.

**Texts**

Course readings will be posted on the course Classes site or Internet links will be posted. Nevertheless it would be helpful to have access to the following books:

- Tom Beauchamp & R.G. Frey (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*
- Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*

**Accommodations**

Students who require accommodation for a disability should consult with the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at [www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-).
wellness/students-with-disabilities. For students with religious obligations that conflict with class obligations, we will confirm to the university policy as stated here: https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html

**Academic Integrity**

We will conform fully and without reservation to the GSAS policy on academic integrity which can be found here: [http://gsas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/gsas/about-gsas/policies-and-procedures/gsas-statement-on-academic-integrity.html](http://gsas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/gsas/about-gsas/policies-and-procedures/gsas-statement-on-academic-integrity.html). If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or other breaches of this policy and the attendant sanctions, please consult the website.

ADD SMETHING ABOUT RESEARCH REFEREED ARTICLES CITATIONS ETCS

**Tentative Schedule**

**September 3:** Course Introduction

**September 10:** Animals in Ancient Western Philosophy and Religion

**September 17:** Animals in Modern Western Philosophy and Religion
Descartes and Voltaire reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations* (posted)

**September 24:** The Darwinian Revolution
Darwin, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations* (posted)
Read around in Darwin, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, available at [http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?pageseq=1&amp;itemId=F1142&amp;viewtype=text](http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?pageseq=1&amp;itemId=F1142&amp;viewtype=text)
Read around in Romanes, *Animal Intelligence*, available at [https://ia902605.us.archive.org/5/items/animalintelligence00roma/animalintelligence00roma.pdf](https://ia902605.us.archive.org/5/items/animalintelligence00roma/animalintelligence00roma.pdf); or his *Mental Evolution in Animals*

**October 1:** Ethical Awakening
Kant, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations* (posted)

Bentham, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations* (posted)

Henry Salt, *Animals’ Rights Considered in Relation to Social Progress*, Chapter 1 (posted)

**October 8: Behaviorism, Ethology, and Cognitive Science**

John Watson, “Psychology as the Behaviorist Views it,” available at http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Watson/views.htm


Allen & Bekoff, *Species of Mind*, Chapter 2 (posted)

Griffin, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*


Ristau, “Cognitive Ethology,” (posted)

**October 15: Legislative Day, No Class**

**October 22: “Leaky’s Angels,” Other Apes, and “Chimpocentrism”**


Scientist Sunday: Leakey’s Angels:

Morell, “Called ‘Trimates’ Three Bold Women Shaped Their Field” (posted)

Gender, “Seeing Nature Through the Lens of Gender” (posted)

Radhakrishna & Jamieson, “Liberating Primatology” (posted)

Beck, “Chimpocentrism” (posted)

Jamieson, “Jane Goodall, the Beatles, and Me,” (posted)

**October 29: Animal Liberation and Animal Rights**

Singer, “All Animals are Equal, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*, also available at http://faculty.webster.edu/corbetre/philosophy/animals/singer-text.html
Regan, “The Case For Animal Rights, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), Animal Rights and Human Obligations, also available at https://animalstudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=acwp_awap
See also their exchange in Philosophy and Public Affairs.

November 5: Class Presentations, First Paper Due

November 12: Philosophy and the Animal Protection Movement (David Wolfson, guest)

November 19: Intersectionality and Animals
Dekha, “Disturbing Images,” Ethics and the Environment, 2008 (posted)
Pendergrast Intersecational Advocacy Tends To Bring In Less Money, available at https://faunalytics.org/intersectional-advocacy-tends-to-bring-in-less-money/

November 26: Continental Philosophy and Animals

December 3: Animal Rights in Asia
Watanabe, “Removal of the Ban on Meat: The Meat-Eating Culture of Japan at the Beginning of Westernization” (posted)
Tsuruokat, “Shoguns and Animals” (posted)
December 10: Moral Challenges in a Non-Speciesist World
Williams, “The Human Prejudice” (posted)
Jeff McMahon, “The Moral Problem of Predation” (posted)

December 17: Final Papers Due

December 19: Class Party, 530pm

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus, including readings, assignments, and due dates.