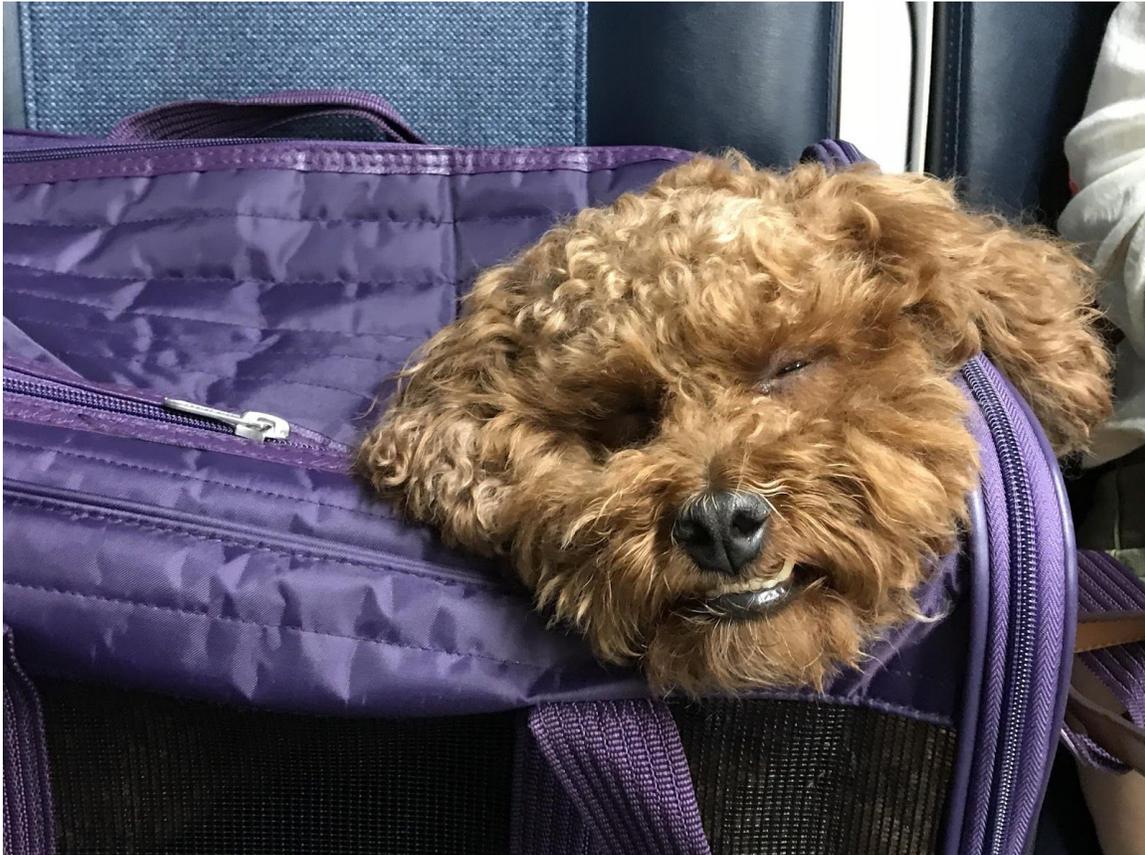


Animals, Science, and Philosophy

ANST-GA2000

5:00pm-7:30pm W

<https://nyu.zoom.us/j/97298157301?pwd=STNVUndHV2V0OG11bGtSOFAxYTFEz09>



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, dwj3@nyu.edu (email for an 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 on email, and 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 March 31 and the second is due on May 12th. If you write one essay you will also be expected to workshop the paper in class on March 31 and to submit it on May 12th. 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 March 10th please let me know which option you will be choosing, and have one paper topic approved by me.

Sources

Generally speaking, the sources you cite in your papers should be refereed books or articles in academic journals. Popular writing by experts, and quality journalism, also have roles to play but they never substitute for peer-reviewed scholarship. Be skeptical about everything you read, hear, or think you see, but especially posts on blogs and social media.

There are multiple citation conventions. I don't care which you use so long as you are consistent, and your citations provide enough information for a reader to recover the original source. For information about standard citation conventions, visit <https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/citations/citationwhich>

Class 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*

The following websites also provide access to important texts:

<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/author.htm>

<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/>

<https://ivu.org/history-legacy-pages.html>

<https://www.happycow.net/blog/category/vegetarian-history/>

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-wellness/students-with-disabilities. For students with religious obligations that conflict with class obligations, we will conform 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>. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or other breaches of this policy and the attendant sanctions, please consult

this website or ask the instructor. .

Tentative Schedule

February 3: Course Introduction, and Animals in Ancient Western Philosophy and Religion

Stephen Clark, in Tom Beauchamp and R.G. Frey, *Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics* (posted)

Richard Sorabji, *Animal Minds and Human Morals*, Introduction and Ch. 1 (posted)

February 10: Animals in Modern Western Philosophy and Religion

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

Hume from the *Treatise on Human Nature*, available at

<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-c/hume01.htm>; and from *An*

Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, available at

<https://www.bartleby.com/37/3/13.html>

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

February 17: Ethical Awakening

[William A. Alcott](http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-c/alcott01.htm), *Flesh-Eating and Human Decimation*, available at
<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-c/alcott01.htm>

Henry David Thoreau, "Higher Laws," available at
<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-c/thoreau01.htm>

Henry Salt, *Animals' Rights Considered in Relation to Social Progress*, Chapter 1 (posted);
the entire book can be found at
<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-c/salt01.htm>

February 24: The Darwinian Revolution

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

James Rachels, *Created From Animals*, Introduction and Ch. 4, available at
<http://www.jamesrachels.org/CFA.htm>

Read around in Darwin, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, available at
<http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?pageseq=1&itemID=F1142&viewtype=text>

Read around in Romanes, *Animal Intelligence*, available at
<https://ia902605.us.archive.org/5/items/animalintelligen00roma/animalintelligen00roma.pdf>; or [his Mental Evolution in Animals](#)

March 3: Behaviorism, Ethology, and Cognitive Science

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

Nikko Tinbergen, "On Aims and Methods of Ethology," *Zeitschrift fur Tierpsychologie*,
1963 (posted)

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

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

Dale Jamieson & Marc Bekoff, "On Aims and Methods in Cognitive Ethology," available
at
<https://as.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyu-as/faculty/documents/JamiesonBekoff1992.pdf>

Ristau, "Cognitive Ethology," (posted)

March 10: "Chimpocentrism," and the Meaning and Ubiquity of Consciousness

Sebo, "Should Chimpanzees Be Considered Persons," available at
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/07/opinion/sunday/chimps-legal-personhood.html>

Scientist Sunday: Leakey's Angels:

<https://inkchromatography.wordpress.com/2011/12/04/scientist-sunday-leakeys-angels-jane-goodall/>

<https://inkchromatography.wordpress.com/2011/12/11/scientist-sunday-leakeys-angel-s-part-ii-dian-fossey/>

<https://inkchromatography.wordpress.com/2011/12/20/scientist-sunday-leakeys-angel-s-part-iii-birute-galdikas/>

Morell, "Called 'Trimates' Three Bold Women Shaped Their Field" (posted)

Beck, "Chimpocentrism" (posted)

Insect paper and plant paper to be identified.

March 17 : Animal Liberation, Animal Rights, and Fellow Creatures

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_away

See also their exchange in *Philosophy and Public Affairs*.

Korsgaard TBA

March 24: Class Presentations, First Paper Due

March 31: Science, Ethics, and Social Change

Allen TBA

Climate norms paper TBA

April 7: Philosophy, Law, and the Animal Protection Movement (David Wolfson, guest)

Please view *Henry: One Man's Way*, available at

<https://www.learnoutloud.com/Free-Audio-Video/Social-Sciences/Cultural-Criticism/Henry-One-Mans-Way/79075>

April 14: Intersectionality and Animals

Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color," *Stanford Law Review*, Vol. 43, No. 6 (Jul., 1991), pp. 1241-129 (posted)

Dekha, "Disturbing Images," *Ethics and the Environment*, 2008 (posted)

Pendergrast Intersectional Advocacy Tends To Bring In Less Money, available at

<https://faunalytics.org/intersectional-advocacy-tends-to-bring-in-less-money/>

Plumwood, "On Being Prey, *Terra Nova*, 1996 (posted)

April 21: Animal Rights in Asia

Finnegan, "Buddhism and the Moral Status of Animals," available at

<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/buddhism-and-the-moral-status-of-animals/10518728>

Watanabe, "Removal of the Ban on Meat: The Meat-Eating Culture of Japan at the Beginning of Westernization" (posted)
Tsuruokat, "Shoguns and Animals" (posted)

April 28: Bending the Curve

TBA

May 5: Moral Challenges in a Non-Speciesist World

Williams, "The Human Prejudice" (posted)

Jeff McMahon, "The Moral Problem of Predation" (posted)

Conservation paper TBA

May 12: Final Papers Due

Disclaimer: This is not the final version of the syllabus. There will be additions, and the instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus, including readings, assignments, and due dates.