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 “discussion” section of the course Brightspace 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 22 and the second is due on May 10th. 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 10th. 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. Please submit papers to me via email in Word.

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 Brightspace 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 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. 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**

**January 25:** Course Introduction, and Animals in Ancient Western Philosophy and Religion


Anthony Appiah, “There is no such thing as western civilization,” available at https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/09/western-civilisation-appiah-reith-lecture

**February 1:** Animals in Modern Western Philosophy and Religion

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


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

**February 8:** Ethical Awakening


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 15:** 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&itemID=F1142&viewtype=text

Read around in Romanes, *Animal Intelligence*, available at https://ia902605.us.archive.org/5/items/animalintellig00roma/animalintelligence00roma.pdf; or his *Mental Evolution in Animals*

**February 22:** Behaviorism, Ethology, and Cognitive Science
John Watson, “Psychology as the Behaviorist Views it,” available at http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Watson/views.htm
Griffin, reprinted in Tom Regan & Peter Singer (eds.), Animal Rights and Human Obligations (posted)
Allen & Bekoff, Species of Mind, Chapter 2 (posted)
Ristau, “Cognitive Ethology,” (posted)
In addition, view these 2 Konrad Lorenz videos:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UIU9XH-mUI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgCTPBU69Sw

March 1: “Chimpocentrism,” Consciousness, and How to Study Animal Minds
Scientist Sunday: “Leakey’s Angels,” as series of 3 articles available here:
Jamieson, “Jane Goodall, the Beatles, and Me” (posted)
Beck, “Chimpocentrism” (posted)
Klein & Barron, “Insect Consciousness,” available at
https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1181&context=animsent
Andrews, How to Study Animal Minds (posted)
In addition, view this video:
https://www.newyorker.com/video/watch/commentary-plant-neurobiology

March 8 : 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 various places on the web including
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, 1980 (posted)
Korsgaard, Fellow Creatures, Chapter 1 (posted)
Martha Nussbaum, Holberg Lecture: "Justice for Animals: Practical Progress through Philosophical Theory," available at
March 15: Spring Break

March 22: Class Presentations, First Paper Due

March 29: Science, Ethics, and Social Change

April 5: Philosophy, Law, and the Animal Protection Movement (David Wolfson, guest)
You can browse some of Henry Spira’s writings here:
https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/do/search/?q=spira&start=0&context=19310772&facet=
And if you have time, check this out:
https://vimeo.com/434802417

April 12: Intersectionality and Animals
Pendergrast Intersectional Advocacy Tends To Bring In Less Money, available at https://faunalytics.org/intersectional-advocacy-tends-to-bring-in-less-money/

April 19: 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)
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/04/18/national/history/dog-shogun/
“Happy Fish,” from the Autumn Floods chapter of the Zhuangzi (posted)

April 26: Compassion, empathy, and dignity for animals in science (Becca Franks, guest)
Webb et al, “Untabooing Empathy” (posted)
Gruen, “Dignity, Captivity, and the Ethics of Sight” (posted)
Santiago and Flynn, “Bridging compassion and justice in conservation ethics,” Biological Conservation, 2020 (posted)

May 3: Moral Challenges in a Non-Speciesist World
Williams, “The Human Prejudice” (posted)
Jeff McMahon, “The Moral Problem of Predation” (posted)

May 10: 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.