

HISTORY 2888G
A History of Animals

Winter Term 2021-22

Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Location TBA (plus a weekly one-hour tutorial)

Course delivery: in-person

Instructor: Professor Aldona Sendzikas

Office Hours: TBA

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1222

Email: asendzi2@uwo.ca

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.



Animal Liberation march, San Francisco, 2015 (Photo courtesy of Donny Moss / TheirTurn.net)

Course Description:

This course examines the animal/human relationship through history, including animals as resource and entertainment, ethical frameworks concerning animal treatment, animals in culture, and the rise of pets. Our relationship with animals is complex—sometimes symbolic, often exploitative—and history helps us to understand why we treat animals as we do.

Prerequisite(s):

Registration in any program at the second year or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Be able to demonstrate a general knowledge of humans' interactions with animals through history, and some of the many ways that animals have impacted the lives of humans, as well as the impact that humans have had on the lives of animals;
- Be able to articulate and critically analyze some of the many opinions that exist concerning the role and status of animals in society;
- Be able to describe and understand how humans' perspectives on animals have been influenced by philosophical, cultural, religious, utilitarian, and other factors, and how these perspectives have changed over time;
- Have learned how to analyze both primary and secondary sources in order to study and understand human-animal relationships throughout history;
- Have practiced academic writing skills, including: forming a thesis statement, developing an argument, and communicating it effectively in written form;
- Have improved oral communication skills through participation in weekly tutorial sessions.

Expectations:

- Attendance at all lectures.
- Attendance and participation in discussion at weekly tutorials.
- Completion of each week's assigned readings in preparation for tutorial discussions.
- Courtesy and respect towards other members of the class.
- Be present! Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Laptops are allowed if used to take notes and/or to refer to online course materials; they are NOT to be used for any other purpose during class.
- Completion and prompt submission of all written assignments.

Course Materials:

Required Texts:

- Margo DeMello, *Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2012) (this book will be available for purchase at the Western Bookstore)
- Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation* (NY: HarperCollins, 2009) (this book will be available for purchase at the Western Bookstore)

- One novel—a work of fiction, the plot of which centres around animals--of the student's choosing (a list of titles to choose from will be provided)
- Additional weekly articles and other materials will be assigned and made available online on the OWL course website.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignments and Marks Distribution:

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| • Short paper (based on a novel of the student's choosing)
(4-5 typed, double-spaced pages) | 20% |
| • Weekly reaction papers (250-400 words each) | 20% |
| • Tutorial participation: | 20% |
| • Final exam (during April exam period) | 40% |

Tutorials:

In addition to the weekly lecture, students will be required to attend a one-hour tutorial each week. Students will be graded on attendance, preparation, engagement, and informed and thoughtful participation in discussion.

Written assignments

In addition to one short paper of 4-5 pages, students will be required to write and submit a weekly reaction paper. The reaction papers will be in response to a question posed each Wednesday at the end of each lecture, and based on the day's topic. The reaction papers will be due the day after the lecture (i.e., by 11:55 p.m. Thursday).

Written assignments must be submitted at the specified time on the due date, in hard copy as well as in electronic form via the submission link on the OWL course website. (By using the submission link on the course website, your paper will automatically be submitted to Turnitin.com.)

Further instructions regarding the above assignments will be provided in class.

Late assignments: A late penalty of 2% for each day (including Saturdays and Sundays) will be incurred for all written work submitted after the due date and time. Papers submitted on the due date but after the due time will be considered late and will be penalized 2%. Keep a copy of each of your written assignments until you receive the grade for it.

Final exam:

There will be a 3 hour final exam that will take place during the April exam period. It will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self-Reported Absence (SRA):

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (*e.g.*, a short paper) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you submit a SRA on March 19th at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21st at 3pm.

Use of Electronic Devices:

Students may use laptops during class to access course readings and to take notes, but not for any other purposes. The use of other electronic devices are not permitted during class. No electronic devices are permitted during the midterm exam or the final exam.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwo.com/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.