

**HISTORY 2888G**  
**A History of Animals**

**Winter Term 2022-23**  
**Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**(plus a weekly one-hour tutorial)**

**In-person: Social Science Centre (SSC) Room 2024**

**Instructor: Professor Aldona Sendzikas**

Office Hours: TBA

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

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

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (*i.e.*, on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

**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)
- 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)<br>(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.

Grades assigned for participation in tutorials will, together, constitute 20% of the student's final grade. (One weekly tutorial grade—*i.e.*, the tutorial session receiving the lowest grade—will not be counted towards the 20% total.)

Students who miss a tutorial will receive a grade of 0 for that week. If a student has documentation from Academic Counseling excusing their absence, they should inform their tutorial leader as soon as possible and arrange for an alternate assignment to make up the missed marks. (Make up assignments will only be allowed if there is documentation from Academic Counseling.)

### *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 by the instructor each Tuesday at the end of the 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. Wednesday).

Grades assigned to these reaction papers will, together, constitute 20% of the student's final grade. (One reaction paper—*i.e.*, the paper receiving the lowest grade—will not be counted towards the 20% total.)

Written assignments must be submitted at the specified time on the due date, electronically and in Word format, 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.

A student who misses a tutorial or an assignment due date and has documentation from Academic Counseling excusing the absence/missed deadline must contact the professor or the tutorial leader before the next lecture (*i.e.*, within one week of the paper being assigned) to discuss an alternate assignment and/or due date.

Unless a student has documentation from Academic Counseling, late papers will be penalized as outlined above, and papers will not be accepted more than two weeks after the due date of the paper.

Please note that HIS 2888G is an essay course. According to Western's Academic Handbook, an essay course "...must be so structured that the student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course." In this course, that means that, in addition to receiving an overall passing grade in the course, students must complete and submit the short paper, as well as at least 60% of the weekly reaction papers, in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.

***Final exam:***

There will be a 2-hour final exam that will take place during the April exam period. It will consist of short answer and essay questions. Students are advised not to make travel plans or other commitments for this period until the university publishes the exam schedule.

No aids (notes, textbooks, cell phones, computers, other electronic devices, *etc.*) will be allowed during either exam.

**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 is not permitted during class. No electronic devices are permitted during the midterm exam or the final exam.

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**Course Schedule:**

***Week 1 (January 10<sup>th</sup>):*** Introduction and course overview.

***Week 2 (January 17<sup>th</sup>):*** An overview of the history of human-animal interactions.

***Week 3 (January 24<sup>th</sup>):*** Animals in human thought, culture, and religion.

***Week 4 (January 31<sup>st</sup>):*** Animals in literature and film.

**Week 5 (February 7<sup>th</sup>):**      **Animals as units of production.**

**Week 6 (February 14<sup>th</sup>):**      **Animals as resources.**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>:**      **READING WEEK! No lectures or tutorials this week.**

**Week 7 (February 28<sup>th</sup>):**      **Humans studying animals.**

**Week 8 (March 7<sup>th</sup>):**      **Animals as entertainment.**

**Week 9 (March 14<sup>th</sup>):**      **Animals as pets.**

**Week 10 (March 21<sup>st</sup>):**      **Animal ethics.**

**Week 11 (March 28<sup>th</sup>):**      **Animal rights.**

**Week 12 (April 4<sup>th</sup>):**      **Our current trajectory.**

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**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