

ANIMAL ETHICS

Fall 2015

PPHAC 101

M/W 8:55-10:05

Professor Colleen Martell
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Office: Zinzendorf 102
Office Hours M/W 11:30-12:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This cutting-edge multidisciplinary course is designed to acquaint students with contemporary and historical animal-ethics/rights issues. A primary goal of the course is to raise moral consciousness about the most current conditions and uses of nonhuman animals and therein the ethical dimension of relationships between nonhuman animals and human beings. The course is structured in two sections: a) ethical theory and b) applied ethics.

In addition to the above outcomes, this course fulfills U1: The Social Impact of Science requirements, and as such, student outcomes also include:

- Understanding of the scientific principles and/or technological innovations relevant to this course
- Understanding and awareness of the role that science and/or technology plays in their life
- Awareness and appreciation for the impact of science and/or technology on contemporary society

COURSE TEXTS available at the bookstore

Bernard E. Rollin, *Animal Rights and Human Morality*. Third edition. New York: Prometheus Books (2006).

Susan J. Armstrong and Richard G. Botzler, *The Animal Ethics Reader*. Second edition. New York: Routledge (2008).



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation and Attendance

Discussion is an integral part of this course—and the success of your learning experience depends on participating in our discussions. You must come to class prepared, having completed the assigned reading, and ready to discuss the material (this includes bringing to class the book/essays we are discussing that day, having marked all the reading assignments for the day, etc.). I will assess your participation grade in this class based on the *consistency* with which you contribute to class discussion and also on the degree to which your contributions demonstrate a *genuine* and *thoughtful* engagement with the reading.

In addition, there will be in-class writing, debates, and reading quizzes as a way for you to demonstrate to me that you are not only doing careful reading, but are also engaging in thoughtful and critical thinking about the readings. **20% of final grade (200 points).**

Assignments

Cultural Analysis: Identify an artifact, article, or event that illuminates animal ethics in everyday life. Photograph it, or otherwise bring it to share with the class. 10 artifacts total. **10% of final grade (10 point each).**

Three Questions: Ten typed-out sets of “Three Questions,” submitted prior to the discussion of readings for that day. These should be your own questions for the author remaining in your mind after grappling with the readings for that day. These may be submitted at the beginning of any class meetings, with at least five of them being submitted prior to midterm. **10% of final grade (10 points each).**

Mid-Term Essay: Engage in a Debate

Choose one topic from course readings thus far and make a case for one side or the other. Be compelling: show that you understand other perspectives on this issue, but clearly support and defend why your claim is strong. 5-7 pages. **25% of final grade (250 points).**

Final Essay: Conference Paper or Publication

All along, I’ve been encouraging you to think of the broader community in your ethical decision-making. For your final assignment, you will imagine you’re writing for a conference or online publication. (You never have to submit this anywhere, but my goal is to help you understand the process of submission and to encourage you to think about your writing in such a way that it engages with world around you.)

Due 3 weeks before end of semester: 300-word paper proposal with two potential conferences/publication outlets. Your proposed essay must be based on one or more readings from second half of semester. **5% of final grade (50 points).**

Due week after classes end: 7-10 page conference or publication essay based on your proposal, with Works Cited page. **30% of final grade (300 points).**

Course Policies

A. Academic Integrity: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

B. Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

C. Assignments will be penalized 10% for every day they are late.

READING SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

M Aug 31 Introductions

W Sep 2 Introductions

INTERSECTIONAL ANIMAL ETHICS

WEEK TWO

M Sep 7 Jacob J. Erickson, "The Martyrdom of Cecil the Lion," *Religion Dispatches*. 29 July 2015. BB

Laura Wright, "On Walter Palmer, Cecil the Lion, and the History of the White Hunter in Africa," *The Vegan Body Project*. 29 July 2015. BB.

W Sep 9 Carol Adams, "The Sexual Politics of Meat," *The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Theory*, New York: Continuum (2003). BB.

A. Breeze Harper, "Redefined Palate: Sistah Vegan Project's Breeze Harper Dishes on Mindful Eating," *Bitch Magazine*. Winter 2014 (61). BB.

Sexual Politics of Meat slideshow

THEORETICAL

WEEK THREE

M Sep 14 Bernard E. Rollin, "Moral Theory and Animals," *Animal Rights and Human Morality*, pages 33-46.

W Sep 16 Bernard E. Rollin, "Moral Theory and Animals," *Animal Rights and Human Morality*, pages 46-75.

WEEK FOUR

M Sep 21 Bernard E. Rollin, "Moral Theory and Animals," *Animal Rights and Human Morality*, pages 76-105.

W Sep 23 Bernard E. Rollin, "Moral Theory and Animals," *Animal Rights and Human Morality*, pages 105-143.

WEEK FIVE

M Sep 28 Rollin, "Animal Rights and Legal Rights," *Animal Rights*, pages 143-175.

W Sep 30 Peter Singer, "Practical Ethics," pages 36-46.

Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights," pages 19-25

Josephine Donovan, "Feminism and the Treatment of Animals: From Care to Dialogue," pages 47-54. ** All in *The Animal Ethics Reader*.

POSTHUMANISM and ANIMAL CONSCIOUSNESS

WEEK SIX

M Oct 5 Francesca Ferrando, "Posthumanism, Transhumanism, Anithumanism, Metahumanism, and New Materialisms: Differences and Relations." BB.

W Oct 7 Marian Stamp Dawkins, "Animal Minds and Animal Emotions," *Animal Ethics*, pages 120-125.

Stathi Paxinos, "Scientific Studies of Animal Intelligence and Emotion Reveal Surprising Traits," *The Age*. 30 August 2015. BB.

APPLIED

WEEK SEVEN

M Oct 12 NO CLASS – FALL RECESS

W Oct 14 CONFERENCES

****MIDTERM ESSAY DUE FRIDAY****

WEEK EIGHT

M Oct 19 FILM

W Oct 21 FILM

WEEK NINE

M Oct 26 BLACKFISH DISCUSSION & TOPICS

ANIMALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

- W Oct 28 Jason Scott Robert and Francoise Baylis, "Crossing Species Boundaries"
Robert Streiffer, "In Defense of the Moral Relevance of Species Boundaries"

WEEK TEN

- M Nov 2 Oliver A. Ryder, "Cloning Advances and Challenges for Conservation"
Autumn Fiester, "Creating Fido's Twin: Can Pet Cloning Be Ethically Justified?"
W Nov 4 Jane Goodall, "Problems Faced by Wild and Captive Chimpanzees"
David Foster Wallace, "Consider the Lobster." *Gourmet*, August 2004. BB.

ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

WEEK ELEVEN

- M Nov 9 Randall L. Eaton, "Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity"
Ralph Acampora, "Zoos and Eyes: Contesting Captivity and Seeking Successor Practices"
W Nov 11 Dale Jamieson, "Against Zoos"
Michael Hutchins, Brandie Smith, and Ruth Allard, "In Defense of Zoos and Aquariums"

WEEK TWELVE

- M Nov 16 Mark Peter Simmonds, "Into the Brains of Whales"
W Nov 18 Paola Cavalieri, "Whales as Persons"

COMPANION ANIMALS

WEEK THIRTEEN

- M Nov 23 Konrad Lorenz, "Affection's Claim"
Anna Merz, "Hand-Raising a Rhino in the Wild"
W Nov 25 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK FOURTEEN

- M Nov 30 Paul Shepard, "The Pet World"
W Dec 2 Freya Matthews, "Living With Animals"

WEEK FIFTEEN

- M Dec 7 CONFERENCES

W Dec 9 CONFERENCES

****FINAL ESSAY DUE DEC 16****