

<1/30/13 – Check Blackboard for updates and announcements>

Hist 239: Animals in Human History

Tu, Th. 11-12:15

Room: King 237

Prof. White

303 Rice Hall

(440)775-8337

sam.white@oberlin.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm and by appointment

Course Goals:

This course explores the evolving relationship between humans and animals from prehistory to the present. About half of the classes focus on our biological and ecological interactions, including domestication, disease, invasive species, and conservation. The other half focus on our cultural and economic interactions, including hunting, farming, and pet-keeping. By the end of the course students should have an appreciation for how humans and animals have shaped one another's history, and how a historical perspective can help us understand contemporary animal issues.

For students in the natural sciences: Think of this class as a way to apply information and perspectives from the natural sciences to the study of history, and to develop writing and critical thinking skills used in the humanities and social sciences.

For students in the humanities and social sciences: Think of this class as a way to acquire both historical and scientific perspective on contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues regarding animals. Be prepared to learn some basic facts and concepts from zoology, ecology, and evolutionary biology. However, don't worry—this is not a science class and does not assume any prior knowledge.

Format:

The course will be in a lecture-discussion format. Depending upon the topic, some weeks will involve more participation than others.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Students are expected to participate in class and complete the assigned readings by the first meeting each week. Much of the material in the lectures may not be covered in the readings but will be on the exams, and so students should obtain notes for any missed classes. If you know you will not be able to attend a class, please let me know as far in advance as possible.

Honor Code: All course work is governed by Oberlin's Honor Code. If you have a question about how the Honor Code applies to a particular assignment, you should ask me in advance of the due date.

Submitting Work: All written work must be submitted by e-mail in a MS Word compatible format. I will mark off 8 points every 24 hours late, weekends included, no exceptions unless you can bring

in a note from your class dean explaining that you could not submit the assignment. If you know in advance that you will not be available to submit work on a given day, please contact me well ahead of the deadline.

E-mail: I will answer short e-mails Mon-Fri 9-5. If you have any questions that require a long answer, please come by my office during office hours instead. I will give feedback on any draft or outline of your class work provided you send it in at least 48 hours before the deadline—the longer I have, the better the feedback.

Grading: A(90-100), B(80-89), C(70-79), D(60-69), F (below 60). Plus and minus grades for scores within 2 points of the next letter grade (e.g., 88 or 89 is a B+; 90 or 91 is an A-).

Participation:

Participation will be 20% of the final grade, based on students' attendance and class discussion. Students may also earn part of their participation grade by posting written discussions and current news and journal articles relevant to the class on the course Blackboard site, or by regularly posting comments about the readings and questions they'd like to discuss in class (*before* the class in question). If you haven't participated throughout the semester, you cannot earn your participation grade just by posting questions or articles in the last two weeks of the course.

Essays:

Students must write two essays of about 1600 words (~5-6 pages) apiece, each worth 25% of your final grade. Detailed questions, instructions, and writing guides will be posted to the course Blackboard page. The papers are due March 21 and May 8.

Quizzes:

There will be three in-class quizzes testing factual material, each worth 5% of your final grade. I will post short review guides on the course Blackboard page before each quiz. At each quiz, you may bring in up to two single-sided pages of notes, but everything in this outline must be entirely of your own creation: Any reproductions from any handouts, web sites, books, or classmates will be a violation of the honor code. The outline may be hand-written or typed (minimum 10-pt font). Bear in mind that writing an outline is one of the best ways of reviewing material. However, it is probably not in your best interest to try to fit as much as possible onto the page, because you may not have the time to find it all during the quiz.

Final Exam:

There will be a take-home final consisting of short essay questions covering broad themes spanning the entire course (15% of your final grade).

Breakdown of Final Grade:

20%: Attendance and participation

50%: Essays

15%: Quizzes

15%: Final exam

Reading:

Reading will average about 60-70 pages per week. I'll give a little background to the readings and explain when and how we'll discuss them in weekly e-mails. Students are responsible for reading carefully, taking notes, and looking up all unfamiliar terms.

This class has three required course books available at the college bookstore:

- Linda Kalof, *Looking at Animals in Human History* (London: Reaktion Books, 2007).
- Richard Bulliet, *Hunters Herders and Hamburgers* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005).
- Hal Herzog, *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals* (New York: Harper Collins, 2010).

The first is an academic text giving a general chronological overview of topics in animal studies, with copious photos and illustrations. The second is a more interesting and eccentric take on some of the same topics. The third is an entertaining but also informative look at anthrozoology by a science journalist. All three will be shelved on course reserve in the science library, and *Hunters Herders and Hamburgers* is also available electronically through OBIS.

All other required readings will be posted to the course Blackboard site in PDF under "weekly readings." For essays, I have posted suggestions for further readings and reference works on the course Blackboard site.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction and Prehistory (2/5-2/7)

Reading:

- Harriet Ritvo, "Animal Planet," in *The Animals Reader*, ed. L. Kalof and A. Fitzgerald (New York: Berg, 2007), 129-40.
- Linda Kalof, *Looking at Animals in Human History* (London: Reaktion Books, 2007), chapter 1.
- Steven Mithen, "The Hunter-Gatherer Prehistory of Human-Animal Interactions," in *The Animals Reader*, ed. L. Kalof and A. Fitzgerald (New York: Berg, 2007), 117-28.

Week 2: Domestication (2/12-2/14)

Reading:

- Jared Diamond, *Guns Germs and Steel* (New York: Norton, 1999), chapter 9 ("Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle").
- Richard Bulliet, *Hunters Herders and Hamburgers* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), chapters 5 and 7.

Week 3: Using and Breeding (2/19-2/21)

Reading:

- Bulliet, *Hunters Herders and Hamburgers*, chapter 6.
- Kalof, *Looking at Animals*, 11-23 and 40-43.
- Sam White, "From Globalized Pig Breeds to Capitalist Pigs: A Study in Animal Cultures and Evolutionary History," *Environmental History* 16 (2011): 94-120.

Week 4: Animal Invasions and Diseases (2/26-2/28)

Reading:

- Diamond, *Guns Germs and Steel*, chapter 11 (“The Lethal Gift of Livestock”).
- Virginia DeJohn Anderson, “King Philip’s Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in New England,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 51 (1994): 601-24.
- James Herriot, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (New York: MJF Books, 1973), chapter 45.

Week 5: Religion and Symbolism (3/5-3/7)

**First quiz in class 3/5.

**Guided visit to the Alan Memorial Art Museum 3/7.

Reading:

- Kalof, *Looking at Animals*, 23-34 and 44-95.
- Robert Darnton, “The Great Cat Massacre,” in *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (New York: Vintage, 1985), 75-101.

Week 6: Cruelty, Affection, Gender, Meat (3/12-3/14)

Reading:

- Herzog, *Some We Love*, chapters 5 and 7.
- Hans Martin Krämer, “‘Not Befitting Our Divine Country’: Eating Meat in Japanese Discourses of Self and Other in the Seventeenth Century to the Present,” *Food and Foodways* 16 (2008): 33–62.
- Carol Adams, “The Sexual Politics of Meat,” in *The Animals Reader*, ed. L. Kalof and A. Fitzgerald (New York: Berg, 2007), 171-81.

Week 7: Animals and Enlightenment (3/19-3/21)

**First essay due Friday 3/21.

Reading:

- Kalof, *Looking at Animals*, 95-144.
- primary sources from Montaigne, Descartes, and Bentham.

Week 8 (3/26-3/28)

Spring Break

Week 9: Predation and Conservation (4/2-4/4)

**Film in class 4/4: *Conflict Tiger* (Sasha Snow, 2006).

Reading:

- Ralph Lutts, “The Trouble with Bambi,” *Forest and Conservation History* 36 (1992): 160-71.
- Jim Sterba, *Nature Wars* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2012), 161-85.

Week 10: Welfare and Rights Movements (4/9-4/11)

**Second quiz in class 4/9.

Reading:

- Herzog, *Some We Love*, chapters 6 and 9.

-primary sources from Henry Salt, Peter Singer, and Tom Reagan.

Week 11: Pets (4/16-4/18)

Reading:

-Herzog, *Some We Love*, chapters 3 and 4.

-Harriet Ritvo, "The Emergence of Modern Pet-Keeping," in *Animals and People Sharing the World*, ed. Andrew Rowan (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1988), 13-31.

-Yi-Fu Tuan "Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection," in *The Animals Reader*, ed. L. Kalof and A. Fitzgerald (New York: Berg, 2007), 141-53.

Week 12: Industrializing Animals (4/23-4/25)

Reading:

-William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: Norton, 1991), chapter 5.

-Roger Horowitz, "Making the Chicken of Tomorrow: Reworking Poultry as Commodities and as Creatures, 1945-1990," in *Industrializing Organisms: Introducing Evolutionary History* (New York: Routledge, 2004), 215-35.

Week 13: Animals in the Anthropocene (4/30-5/2)

**Third quiz in class 5/2.

Reading:

-Margo De Mello, "The Present and Future of Animal Domestication," in *A Cultural History of Animals*, vol. 6, ed. L. Kalof and B. Resl (New York: Berg, 2007), 67-94.

-Stephen DeStefano, *Coyote at the Kitchen Door: Living with Wildlife in Suburbia* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010), selections.

-Sterba, *Nature Wars*, 118-45.

Week 14: Conclusion (5/7-5/9)

**Second essay due Wednesday 5/8.

Reading:

-contemporary news stories for discussion.

****Reading period 5/12-5/14**

****Final exam schedules will be posted on the OC registrar's webpage.**