hist 639i  
**Special Topics in History: Humans and Other Animals** 
(a.k.a. animals as entities and tools of analysis in the humanities)

**professor**  
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**office hrs**  
M 1:30-2:30pm, W 10-11am

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**class**  
Mondays, 6:30-9:00pm   TLF 2108

**description**  
This graduate level course is aimed at an interdisciplinary audience, and consists of a series of historical explorations into the question of what we mean by the categories *animal* and *human*. Given the increasing interest in animal studies across the humanities, this course is designed to develop our methodological toolboxes for incorporating animals and their stories into our research as either analytical lenses or actors in their own right.

**requirements**  
In addition to completing the readings for each week, each student will lead (or co-lead) the discussion one week over the course of the semester (a sign-up sheet will be distributed the first meeting of class). Students are required to write a 750-word review for any two books over the course of the semester, summarizing the major themes and analytical approach of the author, which you should bring to our discussion for that week. Students will also write a 25-page paper that will help you think through your own research—likely possibilities include a historiographic review paper, a research paper on a specific topic, or a research prospectus for a much larger project. In all cases, the topic must be chosen in consultation with me. We will discuss the progress of these papers at intervals throughout the semester (see below). At the end of the semester we will host a mini-conference in which each person presents their independent work from the semester to the rest of the class. All written assignments are due in hard copy (as well as electronic), but feel free to print them 1.5-spaced, and double-sided.

- February 21: Approval of paper topic
- March 28: Discussion of paper sources and preliminary findings
- May 16: Final draft

**NB**—The readings labeled “Further exploration...” are for your future consideration (they can also serve as historiographic leads for your paper), but are not required readings for the weekly discussions. Articles and book chapters assigned for class discussion will be made available through Blackboard (https://elms.umd.edu).

**class will meet on January 24!** We will introduce ourselves, begin our discussion of animals and people, and iron out course logistics. Before we meet, please read Hal Herzog, “Why Is It So Hard to Think Straight About Animals,” in Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat (HarperCollins, 2010): 1-13 (available on the course’s Blackboard site).
Schedule of Readings

(1) What is an Animal?


Further exploration…

Charles Darwin, The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex (John Murray, 1871).
John Dupré, Humans and Other Animals (Oxford, 2002).
Erica Fudge, Animal (Reaktion Books, 2000).
Tim Ingold, ed. What is an Animal? (Routledge, 1994).
Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald, eds. The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings (Berg, 2007).
Donna Haraway, When Species Meet (Minnesota, 2000).
Jane Goodall, In the Shadow of Man, revised edition (Mariner Books, 2000).

Part I. Animal-Human Relationships

(2) Domestication & Pets


Photograph by Vincent J. Musi
Further exploration…


Adrian Franklin, *Animals and Modern Culture: A Sociology of Human-Animal Relations in Modernity* (Sage, 1999).


(3) Animal Landscapes


Further exploration…


(4) **Man the Hunted**

Werner Herzog, *Grizzly Man* (Lions Gates Films, 2005), 103 min.

[Japanese Wolf, from *Wakan sansei zue* (Walker, p. 34)]

*Further exploration…*


**Part II. Animals as Tools of Analysis**

(5) **What Does it Mean to be Wild?**


*Further exploration…*

Marshall Flaum, “Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees,” (National Geographic Specials, 1965), 60 min.
Helen MacDonald, *Falcon* (Reaktion, 2006).
(6) Uses of Anthropomorphism & Zoomorphism


Further exploration…


Kelly Oliver, *Animal Lessons: How They Teach Us to Be Human* (Columbia, 2009).


“…birds and dogs are relevant in connection with human society either because they suggest it by their own social life (which men look on as an imitation of theirs), or alternatively because, having no social life of their own, they form part of ours. Cattle, like dogs, form part of human society, but as it were, asocially, since they verge on objects. Finally racehorses, like birds, form a series of disjointed from human society, but like cattle, lacking in intrinsic sociability.

If therefore, birds are metaphorical human beings and dogs, metonymical human beings, cattle may be thought of as metaphorical inhuman beings. Cattle are contiguous only for want of similarity, racehorses similar only for want of contiguity. Each of these two categories offers the converse image of one of the two other categories, which themselves stand in the relation of inverted symmetry.”

(7) Animals as experimental subjects
Frederick Weisman, *Primate* (Zipporah Films, 1974), 105 min.

Further exploration…


(8) Animals as Windows into Human Society

Further exploration…
Clay McShane and Joel A. Tarr, *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Johns Hopkins, 2007).

Part III. Animal Subjects

(9) Intelligence & Emotion
Erica Fudge, Brutal Reasoning: Animals, Rationality, and Humanity in Early Modern England (Cornell, 2006).

Further exploration…
Donald Griffin, Animal Minds: Beyond Cognition to Consciousness (Chicago, 2000 [1992]).
James Turner, Reckoning with the Beast: Animals, Pain, and Humanity in the Victorian Mind (Johns Hopkins, 2000).

(10) Can we recover animals’ histories?
Aaron Skabelund, “Can the Subaltern Bark? Imperialism, Civilization, and Canine Cultures in Nineteenth-Century Japan,” in

Further exploration...


(11) Hybridities


Further exploration...


**Empathy & Evolution**

Michael Tomasello, *Why We Cooperate* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009), with comments by Joan B. Silk, Carol S. Dweck, Brian Skyrms, and Elizabeth S. Spelke.


Further exploration…


Other Topics: Animals in film


Further exploration…


Other Topics: Hunting & Meat


Further exploration…


Sue Coe, *Dead Meat* (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1995).


