

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Department of Sociology
Fall 2008

ANIMALS AND SOCIETY
SOCY 4017
Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:15
ATLAS 100

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Non-human animals are closely involved in human society. They figure heavily in our language, food, clothing, family structure, economy, education, entertainment, science, and recreation. The many ways we use animals produce ambivalent and contradictory attitudes toward them. We treat some species of animals as friends and family members (e.g., dogs and cats), while we treat others as commodities (e.g., cows, pigs, and chickens). We can learn a great deal about society and ourselves by investigating how we regard and treat animals.

This course will:

- examine the various social constructions of animals;
- challenge conventional representations of non-human animals with evidence that many animals rely on cognition (thought) and emotion; and
- explore the philosophical, moral, and legal status of animals.

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- understand animal issues in the context of larger social issues;
- evaluate the choices you make about your use of animals; and
- analyze the discourse of animal industries and animal rights organizations.

COURSE MATERIALS

You must obtain the course text, which is available at the CU Bookstore:

Flynn, Clifton P. (ed.). *Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader*.
2008. New York: Lantern.

I have posted additional required readings on CULearn

You must obtain an iClicker, also available at the bookstore. You can share a clicker with a friend who is not enrolled in the class and does not use the clicker at this time. Your iClicker has a number that needs to be registered online and linked to your student ID number for grading purposes. You are required to register your iClicker through CUConnect during the first week of class.

GRADING

Your final grade will be based on the following:

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| 1. Reading quizzes and attendance | 10% |
| 2. Papers (20% each) | 40% |
| 3. Exams: Midterm & Final (25% each) | 50% |

Final Grade Scale

A: 94-100%	B: 84-86%	C: 73-76%	D: 64-66%
A-: 90-93%	B-: 80-83%	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-63%
B+: 87-89%	C+: 77-79%	D+: 67-69	F: 59% or less

Reading quizzes and attendance (10%)

Each class will incorporate several graded clicker questions to confirm that you have completed the assigned readings. In addition to these graded questions, the class will include ungraded questions that will be scored as response/no response and will count toward participation.

Absences from class or forgetting your clicker will influence your final grade because you will not be present to respond to the graded reading quiz and ungraded clicker questions. I will drop your 5 lowest reading quiz grades (giving you up to 5 free absences that make you miss the quiz), and will not penalize you in the ungraded clicker questions for missing up to 5 classes. Please note: These 5 absences need to cover both your excused and unexcused absences, including documented visits to Wardenburg and religious holidays (except in extreme cases of extended, documented illness or similar situations. Contact Jenny and me as soon as possible in such situations). Any absences or forgotten clickers beyond the “free” 5 will lower your overall reading quiz average substantially. Ungraded clicker questions will also affect your participation grade, so absences beyond the “free” 5 will lower this grade as well. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please bring them to my attention immediately.

Papers (40%)

You are required to write two papers, one on each of the following topics:

Topic 1: Focus on any species (other than dog or cat) and explore and present the nature of human-animal relations for that species. You should find and evaluate scholarly and popular print and internet resources regarding this species and its relationships with humans. At least two of your sources should come from articles in scholarly journals.

Topic 2: Find current media coverage (starting September 2009) of an event or issue that applies and extends material in the assigned text. This can involve an individual animal, a group of animals, or an entire species. For example, coverage of the role of livestock in global warming could be approached through several of the readings in the course (note that this issue has already appeared in the media and cannot be used in this course, unless new findings appear). You cannot predict when these events will occur, so be continually on the lookout throughout the semester.

You can write the papers in any order (in other words, you can write on Topic 2 before Topic 1), but you must turn them in on the deadlines of October 2 and November 13. You will have one letter grade deducted for each day after the due date, and I will accept no papers after the third day. I will make exceptions to this policy for religious

holidays or extenuating circumstances, such as a death in the family or hospitalization. In such cases, please inform Jenny or me of your situation as early as possible.

You will find guidelines for the papers and grading criteria on CU Learn.

Exams (50%)

The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice, T/F, and short-answer questions. The final exam will consist of two parts, an in-class section similar to the midterm and an essay question that you will answer at home, prior to the exam, and turn in with the in-class section. The essay will require you to synthesize and analyze information from different parts of the course. The short-answer section will be weighted toward the second half of the course, but both parts of the final exam will include material from the entire course.

COURSE POLICIES

Attend class regularly. Absences will affect your grade because you will not be in class to respond to the graded reading quiz and ungraded clicker questions.

What to do if you miss a class: First, contact a classmate for notes. After you have copied and reviewed the notes, see Jenny or me for additional clarification of the material if needed.

Keep current with the reading. Please note that we will not “go over” each reading in class, but you are responsible for all content assigned. In some cases, we will discuss the material in considerable detail; in others, the reading will provide a platform for considering related issues.

Be courteous in class. Arrive on time. Turn phones off before the start of class. Refrain from sleeping, holding conversations, reading newspapers, or doing work for other classes. Respect everyone in the learning environment.

I find laptops distracting and thus do not allow them in class. If you are required to use a laptop because of a disability, please provide documentation within the first two weeks of class.

To send me an email, you must put SOCY4017 in the subject line of your message. This can be followed by other information (e.g., SOCY4017 paper question) but your message must start with SOCY4017. I will read and respond to email sent to me from this class only Monday through Thursday, 9-5.

Keep copies of all graded course work until you receive your final grade. In the case of an incorrect or missing grade, it is your responsibility to provide graded work to request a change.

READING SCHEDULE (Subject to change. I will announce any changes on CULearn. Numbers correspond to listings in the table of contents in the book. * indicates material posted on CU Learn. *Please note that we will take some of the readings out of order.* Read them as listed.)

Part I: An Emerging Field

8/28 “Social Creatures: An Introduction” & #1

9/2 #2 & #3

Part II: Studying Human-Animal Relationships

9/9 #4; Co-presenter: Colter Ellis

9/11 #5 & #6

9/16 *Irvine

Part III: Historical and Comparative Perspectives

9/18 #7 & #8

9/23 #9

Part IV: Animals and Culture

9/25 #10

9/30 #11

10/2 *Papers due*

#12 & *Dunayer

Part V: Attitudes toward Other Animals

10/7 #13 & #14

10/9 #15 & *Bear (x2); Guest Speaker: Matt Bear

Midterm Exam

10/14

Part VI: Criminology and Deviance

10/16 #16, #17, *Arluke, Levin, Luke, & Ascione

10/21 #18 & *Atwood-Harvey

10/23 #19

Part VII: Inequality: Interconnected Oppressions

10/28 #20 & #22

10/30 #21

11/4 *Ellis & Irvine

Part VIII: Living and Working with Other Animals

11/6 #25; Guest Speaker: Gail Bishop

11/11 #23 & #24

11/13 *Papers due*

#26 and *Irvine

11/18 #27
11/20 *Irvine (x2)

Fall break 11/25 & 27

Part IX: Animal Rights: Philosophy and Social Movement

12/2 #28
11/4 #29
12/9 #30
12/11 #31

Final Exam

12/16 7:30-10 a.m

RELEVANT CU POLICIES

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services within the first two weeks of class so that we can address your needs. Disability Services determines accommodations based on *documented* disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty members have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to

university probation, suspension, or expulsion). For other information on the Honor Code, see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please notify me early in the semester if religious observance will cause you to miss a class, test, or assignment. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policies on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) Sexual Harassment, and Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment, see <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>