



Feminism and Animals

Interim 2013

Professor: Dr. Williams

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Class time/location: MTWRF: 1-4 (in-class time) and field trips/MAIN 222

Course description

In this class we will learn why the plight of animals is a feminist issue. We will discuss the ways in which the exploitation of women and animals can be understood as an expression of a patriarchal worldview, which can manifest itself as sexism and speciesism. Topics include women as animal advocates, media representation of women and animals (especially in advertising), the role of animals in maintaining masculinity, and the issue of whether feminists should be vegans. Regular readings, short writing assignments, guest speakers, class discussions, group presentations, video documentaries, and organizing a fundraising event make up our class activities. The course also includes field trips to Simpsonville, SC, and Asheville, NC.

Course Objectives

By the end of the term, students are expected to be familiar with:

- feminism, as a philosophy and way of life, and animal protection efforts.

Required Books

- *Women and the Animal Rights Movement*, Emily Gaarder (2011)
- *Pornography of Meat*, Carol Adams (2004)

Attendance

You are required to attend and engage in all scheduled class discussions and fieldtrips. Any unexcused absence will result in failure.

Grading

A passing grade is above 75%, failing is below 75%, and an honors pass is a grade above 94%. Students are required to pass all individual requirements.

Requirements

20% group presentations

30% two exams @ 15% each

10% short writing assignments

40% Final class project: *Animal Allies* Fund Raiser

Schedule

FT = field trip

V = Video

GP = Group presentation (Power Point)

SWA = Short writing assignment

Week 1 Women and Animal Advocacy

(Th) Jan. 3: Class discussion – Women and the Animal Rights Movement (*WARM*) chapters 1-3.

SWA #1 due

(Fr) Jan. 4: Class discussion – *WARM* reading, chapters 4 and 5

SWA #2 due

(M) Jan. 7: **GP # 1:** Animal Protection Organizations

a) history of vivisection organizations (AAVS)

b) *ASPCA*

c) *United Poultry Concerns*

d) *Last Chance for Animals*

(T) Jan. 8: *WARM* reading, chapters 6 and 7

V = *I am an Animal: The Story of Ingrid Newkirk and Peta* (HBO) @ McMillan Theater

SWA #3 due

(W) Jan. 9: Guest Speakers: Dana, founder of *Po' Kitties* and wildlife rehabilitator Wendy Watson from the *Greenville Wildlife Rehabilitation Center*

Week 2 Media Representation

(Th) Jan. 10: **FT** = *Rabbit Sanctuary*, Simpsonville, SC

(Fr) Jan. 11: Reading: *Pornography of Meat*

V = *Flesh*

(M) Jan. 14: Guest Speaker: Amy Adams (*Furman Animal Rights*) at 3:00 pm/brainstorming about *Animal Allies* fund raiser.

V = *Hole in the Paper Sky*

SWA #4

(T) Jan. 15: **Exam #1**

V = *Behind the Mask* @ McMillan Theater

(W) Jan. 16: Reading: Brian Luke, "Violent Love: hunting, heterosexuality, and the erotics of men's predation" *Feminist Studies* 24 (1998): 627-655.

(Suggested) Reading: Brian Luke, "Toward a nonpatriarchal metaethic of animal liberation" in *Animals and Women*. **SWA #5**

Week 3 Animals and Masculinity

(Th) Jan. 17: FT = *Animal Allies* Tour @ 11:00 am

(Fr) Jan. 18: Guest Speaker: Dr. Clif Flynn, USC-Upstate. Reading: "Women's Best Friend: Pet Abuse and the Role of Companion Animals in the Lives of Battered Women" from Social Creatures

Additional Reading: "Dogfighting: symbolic expression and validation of masculinity" *Sex Roles* 39 (1998): 825-838.

SWA #6

(M) Jan. 21: **MLK**

(T) Jan 22: Reading Handout: "Feminism and Vegetarianism"

SWA #7: conversations with men about animal issues

V = *Peaceable Kingdom* @ McMillan Theater

(W) Jan. 23: **FT** – *Animal Haven* Sanctuary and *Rosetta's Kitchen* restaurant, Asheville, NC

Tentative: Goat Mountain Sanctuary visit

Week 4 Feminism and Veganism

(Th) Jan. 24: **GP #2**: From Farm to Table (Dairy, Beef, Chicken, Pork production)

V= *Vegucated*

(F) Jan. 25: **FT** = Cooking Session, **3:30 @** [Daniel Morgan Technology Center](#)
[201 Zion Hill Road, Spartanburg, SC 29307](#))

(M) Jan. 28: Prep time for fundraiser

(T) Jan. 29: **Final class project**: *Animal Allies* fundraising event!

(W) Jan. 30: **Exam #2**

SWA # 8 Op-ed pieces on animal protection