



Our Peculiar Relationship with Animals

Instructor: Dr. Williams

Office: Daniel 208

Office Phone: 597-4907

Email: williamsnm@wofford.edu

Class time/location: 1-4 M-F/Main 124

Description

We will gain a better understanding of our complex and oftentimes contradictory relationship with animals by reading current sociological and philosophical perspectives, participating in field trips to animal sanctuaries and rehabilitation centers, meeting dynamic guest speakers from various local animal organizations, watching videos, and having regular class discussions. Academic rigor is maintained with two graded exams, three reflection papers, and regular participation in class activities/discussion.

Academic goals

Students are expected to (1) develop a deeper appreciation about the human-animal relationship via ethical and sociological perspectives; (2) to know about the specific ways in which humans exploit animals; and (3) to become familiar with local animal organizations (and their founders) that care for animals.

Grade Distribution*

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Participation: 20% (participation in all scheduled field trips and in-class discussions and activities)

Reflection papers: 3 @ 10% each (30%)

*Students must receive a passing grade for every assignment in order to pass the course.

Grading

A passing grade is above 75%, failing is below 75%, and an honors pass is a grade above 94%.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all scheduled classes and field trips. Any unexcused absence will result in failure.

Books

- Derrick Jensen and Karen Tweedy-Holmes. (2007) *Thought to Exist in the Wild: Awakening from the Nightmare of Zoos*, No Voice Unheard.
- Clifton Flynn. (2008) *Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader*, Lantern Books

Schedule and Reading Assignments (*Social Creatures* unless otherwise noted)

Week 1

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Jan. 5 | Reading: Intro: pp. xiii-22 (Chapters 1 and 2) |
| Jan. 6 | Reading: Chapters 8 and 9 |
| Jan. 7 | Reading: Chapters 17 and 18 (Guest Speaker: Dr. Clif Flynn, USC-Upstate) |
| Jan. 8 | Reading: Chapters 28 and 29 (Video: <i>The Emotional World of Farm Animals</i>) |
| Jan. 9 | Exam #1 (Video: <i>When Animals Talk</i>) |

Week 2

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 12 | Reading: <i>Thought to Exist in the Wild</i> (Video: <i>Lolita</i>) |
| Jan. 13 | Field Trip: Greenville Zoo |
| Jan. 14 | Wildlife Rehab of Greenville (visit class and teach the basics of wildlife rehabilitation); Reflection Paper #1 due |
| Jan. 15 | Reading: Chapters 20, 21 and 31 (Video: <i>Flesh</i>) |
| Jan. 16 | Reading: hunting (handout); (Guest Speaker: Greg Lucas, Department of Natural Resources –Clemson) |

Week 3

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 19 | Reading: Chapters 26 and 27 (animal shelter workers/lab animals) |
| Jan. 20 | Field Trip: Rabbit Sanctuary, Simpsonville, SC |

- Jan. 21 **Exam #2** (Video: *The Witness*)
- Jan. 22 Reading: Chapter 12; (Guest Speaker: Susan Bufano, editor of *Critter Magazine* and founder of *Speak for Animals*)
- Jan. 23 Field Trip: Raptor Center, Huntersville, NC

Week 4

- Jan. 26 Carolina Wildlife Care: will bring “wildlife ambassadors” to class and discuss the workings of a rehabilitation center and the importance of conserving SC’s wildlife; **Reflection Paper #2 due**
- Jan. 27 Reading: Factory Farming (handouts) (Videos: *Meet your Meat* and *Pig Farm*)
- Jan. 28 Open
- Jan. 29 Film: “Hole in the Paper Sky”/ Guest Speaker: Howard Kincade --
McMillan
Reflection Paper #3 due