

ANIMALS AND SOCIETY

SOCY 4017
T/R 11 a.m.
ECCR 200

University of Colorado
Department of Sociology
Fall 2014



Professor: Leslie Irvine
leslie.irvine@colorado.edu
KTCH 223

Drop-in office hours: T/R 9:30-10:30

Teaching Assistant: Sherri Sasnett-Martichuski
sherri.sasnett@colorado.edu
MUEN D251E

Drop-in office hours: T 1-1:30

Both also available by appointment

Course description

The countless ways that non-human animals factor into human existence make it hard to imagine the entity we call “society” without them. They figure heavily in our language, food, clothing, family structure, economy, education, entertainment, science, and recreation. Our relationships with animals and the ways we regard and use them produce ambivalent and contradictory attitudes. Although we consider some animals family members and allow them to share our homes, we consider some food and still others pests. In this course, we will investigate how our ideas about animals and relationships with them have varied over time and across cultures. We will examine how human-animal relationships can provide a lens through which to study human societies.

The course will cover a range of topics, many of them controversial. Although this is a sociology course, the field of human-animal studies (sometimes called “anthrozoology”) is interdisciplinary. Therefore, many of the readings come from areas other than sociology, but we will always emphasize their sociological relevance.

In these areas:

Knowledge and understanding

Skills and abilities

Judgment

The course will equip you to:

- account for the shifting roles and statuses of animals in contemporary Western society and the social, cultural, and ethical consequences of these positions
- account for key perspectives and concepts in the field of human–animal studies
- account for the importance of considering non-human animals in analyses of current social issues
- analyze norms and structures organizing human-animal relations in contemporary Western society
- analyze the boundaries drawn between humans and animals and critically review their consequences
- critically assess the social, cultural, and ethical consequences of human-animal relations

How will you fulfill the goals of the course?

This course requires a considerable amount of reading, and the first requirement is to obtain the course text, which is available at the CU Bookstore. You will find the additional required readings on D2L.

Arluke, Arnold, and Clinton Sanders. 2009. *Between the Species: Readings in Human-Animal Relations*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

I will assess your progress in reaching the course goals through the following requirements:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Class Preparation Assignments | 50 points |
| ● Test & final exam | 150 points |
| ● In-class assignments | 100 points |
| ● Essays (3 types) | <u>250 points</u> |
| TOTAL | 550 points |
- Class Preparation Assignments (or CPAs) are brief exercises that require thinking and engaging with the reading prior to class discussion. You will submit them on D2L **by 10:00 a.m.** on designated days. CPAs are “low stakes” assignments, worth up to 5 points each.
What's the goal? CPAs allow us to spend class time on the most important material and new ideas, rather than reviewing the reading.
 - Test & exam: the test (50 points) will consist of multiple-choice questions. The exam (100 points) will combine multiple-choice and essay questions. I will post study guides and, for the final, potential essay questions, well in advance of the dates.
What's the goal? The test will assess your grasp of key concepts. In addition, the exam will also assess your analytic skills.
 - In-class assignments involve critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, and other activities, with instructions provided in class. These are worth between 10-20 points each.
Why do this? Research shows that active engagement leads to improved learning and higher grades.
 - Essays are worth 50, 100, and 150 points. You will find prompts and formatting instructions on D2L. You will submit a hard copy in class and upload the file for originality check through the D2L dropbox. We will examine papers from previous classes prior to writing the first essay.
What's the objective here? Essays allow you to synthesize and evaluate what you have learned.

In addition, you must upload a recent headshot to your D2L profile by September 5.

Failure to do this will result in a five-point deduction from your final grade.



Final Grade Scale

A: 94-100%
A-: 90-93%
B+: 87-89%

B: 84-86%
B-: 80-83%
C+: 77-79%

C: 73-76%
C-: 70-72%
D+: 67-69%

D: 64-66%
D-: 60-63%
F: 59% or less



Course policies

I expect professional behavior from students in a 4000-level course. Please familiarize yourself with the policies outlined below so that you understand the expectations for this class.

Unprofessional behavior such as absenteeism, tardiness, careless work, and poor communication skills will affect your grade negatively.

You must keep current with the course. If you miss a class, first contact a classmate to find out what you missed and get notes, then arrange to see Sherri or me for clarification of the material if needed.

If an event scheduled prior to the start of the semester (such as travel for a religious observance, wedding, family reunion, or conference) will cause you to miss a class or a deadline, you must notify me by **September 16** to discuss alternate grading options. I will not consider options for anyone who notifies me after this date.

Keep up with the reading. I understand that you have other classes and many demands on your time, but you must plan to complete all reading assignments by the dates listed on the syllabus. We will not “go over” each reading in class, but I will hold you accountable for all content assigned. In some cases, we will discuss the material in detail, but more often, the reading will provide a platform for considering related issues.

Rules of Tech Etiquette: No laptops (except to accommodate disabilities). No tablets. No phones.



I have a “Zero Tolerance” policy for texting in class. Just don’t do it. Turn the ringer on your phone off—not to “vibrate”—and **put your phone away**, not in your lap. Do not push me on this. If you text or engage in other distracting, disrespectful behaviors during class, I will ask you to leave.



Please inform me if you have a health problem or a disability that necessitates leaving the room during class.

Check D2L and your CU email account regularly for announcements relevant to the class. I will read and respond to email sent from this class Monday through Thursday, 9-5, and Friday 9-12.

In your writing for this course, make sure that the language you use to refer to other animals is non-speciesist and respectful of our relation to other species. Use *who* and *whose*, rather than *it* and *its*. Use terms such as *companion animal*, *animal in the laboratory*, *non-human animal*, and *caretaker or guardian*.

Late or missed assignment policy:

CPAs and in-class assignments cannot be submitted late. If you miss a CPA or in-class assignment due to documented medical or legal circumstances, notify me by email for an alternate assignment. Submit documentation in the class immediately following the one you missed.

Essays turned in after the class period in which they are due but *before* the end of the same day will have their grades **lowered by 5 points**. Essays turned in after the due date will have their grades **lowered by 10 points** for each day they are late. Essays turned in **two or more days** after the due date (including non-class days and weekends) will receive **no points**. If you cannot submit your essay in class because of documented medical or legal circumstances, you



must e-mail me a copy before the beginning of class that day (along with uploading it to D2L). You must submit a paper copy, and your documentation, at the next class.

If you become concerned about your grade in this course, see Sherri or me as soon as possible to discuss strategies for improvement. Do not wait until the end of the semester.

If you receive a grade that you consider incorrect or unfair and would like it reviewed, please submit (1) your graded assignment, and (2) a typed memo, no more than one page in length, explaining why you believe the grade you received does not accurately reflect the quality of your work, given the requirements of the assignment. Submit this request to Sherri or me within one week of receiving the grade. We will inform you of the decision within a week of receiving these items. Please note that if you ask to have your work reevaluated, your new grade may be lower than the original.

Make back-up copies of **all** your written work. 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.

Course schedule

I will post any revisions on D2L. Please note the following:



- The readings in *Between the Species* consist of 35 numbered articles. The numbers listed in the “What to Read” column below correspond to these numbers.
- Read the introductory material to each section of the text, in addition to the articles themselves.
- We will take some readings out of order.
- An asterisk (*) designates readings posted on D2L.
- When the schedule lists “online content,” you will find the relevant link(s) on D2L.
- You will find full references for all readings on D2L.

CLASS#	DATE	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE
1	T 8/26	<i>Introduction to the course</i>		
2	R 8/28		Intro to <i>Between the Species</i> (pp. ix-xxvii) & *Irvine	CPA
3	T 9/2	Animal, Self, and Society <i>Thinking with Animals</i>	1, *Mooallem(1)	
4	R 9/4		*Mooallem(2)	CPA
5	T 9/9		2, *Jerolmack(1)	
6	R 9/11		3, *Griffith <i>et al.</i> , *Orwell	CPA
7	T 9/16		4, *Nash	
8	R 9/18	<i>Close Relationships</i>	5 & *Blouin	



9	T 9/23		6, *Arluke and Rolfe	Essay 1
10	R 9/25		7, *Jerolmack(2)	
11	T 9/30	<i>The Dark Side</i>	8 & 9	
12	R 10/2		10, *Atwood-Harvey	CPA
13	T 10/7	<i>Wild(life) Encounters</i>	11	
14	R 10/9		12, *Seymour and Wolch	CPA
15	T 10/14		13, *Scarce	
16	R 10/16	Test		
17	T 10/21	Animals in Institutions <i>Science</i>	14 & 15	
18	R 10/23		16, *online content	CPA
19	T 10/28	<i>Agriculture</i>	17 & 19	
20	R 10/30	<i>Entertainment & Education</i>	20, *Kalof and Taylor	
21	T 11/4		21, 22, *Jamieson	CPA
22	R 11/6	<i>Health & Welfare</i>	23, *Irvine and Vermilya , *Klinkenborg	
23	T 11/11		24 & 25	Essay 2
24	R 11/13	The Changing Status & Perception of Animals <i>Healing</i>	26, *Arluke; *Herzog	CPA
25	T 11/18		27, *Britton and Button	
26	R 11/20		28, *Sanders	CPA
	T 11/25	No classes	Fall Break	
	R 11/27	No classes	Thanksgiving holiday	
27	T 12/2	<i>Selfhood</i>	29 & 31	
28	R 12/4		30, *online content	Essay 3
29	T 12/9	<i>Rights</i>	18, 32, 33, *online content	
30	R 12/11		34 & 35	CPA
	T 12/16	Final exam	4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	





Relevant CU Policies

Disabilities

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

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, and Illnesses guidelines under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

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 students' legal names. 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 adjust 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 found 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 http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Discrimination and Harassment

Any student who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on 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 regarding discrimination or harassment, see <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>