

Animals and Society (APBI 314)

Learning objectives

- To become aware of the diverse use of animals in contemporary society in such areas as food production, companionship, recreation and science.
- To develop the ability to find, evaluate and use information about animals and society
- To develop awareness of social and ethical issues surrounding how people affect animals, and to develop the habit of thinking critically about these issues
- To develop an appreciation of the role of animals in human culture
- To understand the protection of animals afforded by society and the law, and its limitations

Topics

- Animals in Food Production
- Animals in Science
- Companion Animals and Animal Protection
- Wild Animals
- Animals in Human Culture

Style of learning

Most classes involve exercises and discussion based on readings that must be done before the class. A high level of attendance and participation is important for success.

Evaluation

Evaluation is based on written work that involves research and critical thinking, not factual recall.

Assignment 1 (Animal numbers)	5
Assignment 2 (Intensification)	10
Assignment 3 (Animal law)	10
Take-home midterm exam	30
Take-home final exam	30
Attendance	10
Participation (including oral presentation)	5
Bonus marks for optional field trips (maximum of 2)	<u>2</u>
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Oral presentations

During the course, each student gives a brief oral presentation on some aspect of animal use or animal involvement in human society, chosen by the student. Topics can be relatively broad such as wildlife rehabilitation, zoos, aquaria and game ranching. They may be more specific such as chuck-wagon racing, use of diabetic strains of rats in research, iguanas as pets, and laws regarding ownership of pitbulls. Three students will each give a presentation, not to exceed 3 minutes, at the beginning of each class.

SAMPLE READINGS

Animals in Human Culture

1. Goodall, J. 1971. Pages 117-123 and 207-213 from *In the Shadow of Man*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
2. Pepperberg, I.M. 2002. In search of King Solomon's ring: Cognitive and communicative studies of Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*). *Brain, Behavior and Evolution* 59: 54-67.
3. Fraser, D. 2008. Chapter 3 ('A good life for animals') from *Understanding Animal Welfare: The Science in its Cultural Context*. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.
4. Hans Christian Andersen. *The Nightingale*.

Animals in Food Production

1. von Keyserlingk, M.A.G., Rushen, J., de Passillé, A.M. and Weary, D.M. 2009. The welfare of dairy cattle – Key concepts and the role of science. *Journal of Dairy Science* 92: 4101-4111.
2. Gonyou, H.W. 2005. Experiences with alternative methods of housing sows. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 226: 1336-1340.
3. Hunton, P. and Fairhurst, G. 2002. 2001 International egg costings show ongoing price drop. *World Poultry* 18 (1): 20-22.
4. Fraser, D. 2006. Animal welfare assurance programs in food production: A framework for assessing the options. *Animal Welfare* 15: 93-104.
5. Robbins, J. 1987. Pages 350-381 ('All things are connected') in *Diet For a New America*. Stillpoint Publishing, Walpole, NH

Wild animals and society

1. Schuppli, C. and Fraser, D. 2000. A framework for assessing the suitability of different species as companion animals. *Animal Welfare* 9: 359-372.
2. Anderson, P.K. 2003. Wireless telecommunications and night flying birds: We may be sacrificing millions of migrants for convenience, entertainment and profit. *Biodiversity* 4(1): 10-17.