

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2020/21 1st semester
UGEC2858 Animals and Society: A Philosophical Approach
Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: Online Teaching
Instructor: Dr. Kwok Pak Nin, Samson
Time: Tuesday 15:30-18:15

Course overview:

This course examines the social issues of animal from the philosophical perspectives. What are the key differences between humans and other animals? Is it ethical to raise and slaughter animals for food, conduct tests on, and buying or keeping animals as pets? What are the social impacts of these actions? Students will develop an interdisciplinary perspective in the fields of human animal studies, sociology, ethical theory and environmental philosophy by understanding how ancient and contemporary philosophers, sociologist, environmental scientists, ecologists, activists, and journalists have responded to key ethical questions concerning animal and its social implication. Topics to be discussed include: Domestication of Animals, The Social and Cultural Representation of Animals, The ethics of meat eating, Animal Experiment and Animal-Assisted Activities, and the ethics of keeping pets.

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- cite the major arguments in the current philosophical debates over the social and moral status of nonhuman animals, and understand the strengths and weakness of each;
- recount the historical, scientific, social and cultural contexts of the debate;
- discuss the broad range of animal exploitation and the moral issues that each form of it raises;
- form a conclusion about the ethics of using animals and defend it with a strong, logical argument.

Learning activities and workload:

- 1. Lecture:** 3 hours each week.
- 2. Class Discussion:** Students are required to discuss reading material assigned in class.

Assessment:

| Task nature | Description | Mode | Weight |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Discussion | Class Discussion (individual) | Online | 5% |
| | Class Discussion (group) | Face to Face | 20% |
| | Take Home Discussion Question | Take Home | 25% |
| Essay | Term-end Paper | Take Home | 50% |

Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face assessment is not possible due to pandemic:

| Task nature | Description | Mode | Weight |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Discussion | Class Discussion (group) | Online | 20% |

Grade Descriptors:

http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Details of course website:

Lecture notes and information on assignments will be posted on the Blackboard Learn website.

Topics and Course schedule:

| Week | Date | Topic | Remarks |
|------|---------|--|--|
| 1 | Sept 8 | Introduction: Why Animals Matter? | |
| 2 | Sept 15 | The Animal-Human Borders & Domestication of Animals | |
| 3 | Sept 22 | The Social and Cultural Representation of Animals | |
| 4 | Sept 29 | The Moral Status of Animals: Utilitarian, Kant, and Right-based Approach | |
| 5 | Oct 6 | The Moral Status of Animals: Capabilities, The Abolitionist, and Difference Thesis Approach | <u>Take Home Discussion</u> <u>Question Release</u> |
| 6 | Oct 13 | Animals as Food: Meat Culture and Meat Industry | |
| 7 | Oct 20 | Animals as Food: The Ethics of Meat Eating | |
| 8 | Oct 27 | <u>1st class group discussion</u> Animals as Tool: Zoos and Entertainment | <u>Face to Face Group</u> <u>Discussion Section</u> |
| 9 | Nov 3 | Animals as Tool: The Ethics of Animal Experiment and Animal-Assisted Activities | |
| 10 | Nov 10 | Animals as family member: Pet-o-philis and Zoophilia | |
| 11 | Nov 17 | Animals as family member: The Ethics of Commodification and Keeping pets | |
| 12 | Nov 24 | <u>2nd class group discussion</u> | <u>Face to Face Group</u> <u>Discussion Section</u> |
| 13 | Dec 1 | Conclusion: Peaceful Co-existence? Animals as Citizen? | |

Recommended learning resources:**Main Reference:**

DeMello, Margo. *Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012.

謝曉陽，〈馴化與慾望：人與動物關係的暗黑史〉。香港：印象文字，2019年。

Supplementary Reference:

Bekoff, Marc and Pierce, Jessica. *Wild Justice-The Moral Lives of Animals*. The University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Caras, Roger A. *A Perfect Harmony: The Intertwining Lives of Animals and Humans Throughout History*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Chignell, Andrew, Terrence Cuneo & Matthew C. Halteman. eds. *Philosophy Comes to Dinner: Arguments About the Ethics of Eating*. New York: Routledge, 2016

Cohen, Carl & Regan, Tom. *The Animal Rights Debate*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2001.

Derrida, Jacques. *The Animal That Therefore I Am*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2008

Flynn, Clifton P. Ed. *Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader*. Lantern Books, 2008.

Franklin, Adrian. *Animals and modern culture*. London; Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage 1999

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Eating Animals*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2009.

Francione, Gary & Charlton, Anna. *Animal Rights: The Abolitionist Approach*. Exempla Press, 2015

Gruen, Lori. *Entangled Empathy. An Alternative Ethic for Our Relationships with Animals*. USA: Lantern Books, 2015.

Hursthouse, Rosalind. *Ethics, Humans and Other Animals*. New York: Routledge, 2000.

McCance, Dawne, *Critical Animal Studies: An Introduction*. State University of New York Press, Albany, 2013.

Nussbaum, Martha C. *Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, and Species Membership*. USA: First Harvard University Press, 2007.

Regan, Tom. *The Case for Animals Rights*. USA: University of California Press, 1992.

Singer, Peter. *Animal Liberation*. New York: HaperCollins, 2009.

Taylor, Nik. *Humans, Animals, and Society, An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies*. New York: Lantern Books, 2013

Waldau, Paul. *Animal Studies: An Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Zaraska, Marta. *Meathooked: the History and Science of Our 2.5-million-year Obsession with Meat*. New York: Basic Books, 2016.

大衛·葛林姆著，周怡伶譯，《貓狗的逆襲：荊棘滿途的公民之路》。台北：新樂園，2016年。

朱立安·巴吉尼著，謝佩紋譯，《吃的美德：餐桌上的哲學思考》。台北：商周出版社，2014年。

史蒂芬·平克著，顏涵銳、徐立妍譯，《人性中的良善天使：暴力如何從我們的世界中逐漸消失》。台北：遠流出版社，2016年。

法蘭斯·德瓦爾著，楊仕音、林雅玲、顧曉哲譯，《你不知道我們有多聰明：動物思考的時候，人類能學到什麼？》。台北：馬可孛羅文化，2017年。

哈拉瑞著，林俊宏譯，《人類大歷史：從野獸到扮演上帝》。台灣：天下文化，2014年。

哈爾·賀札格著，李奧森譯，《為什麼狗是寵物豬是食物：人類與動物之間的道德難題》。台北：遠足文化，2016年。

馬克·貝考夫著，錢永祥，彭淮棟，陳真譯，《動物權與動物福利小百科》。台北：桂冠圖書股份有限公司，2002年。

陳嘉銘，《寫在牠們滅絕之前——香港動物文化誌》。香港：突破出版社，2018年。

陳燕遐、潘淑華編，《「牠」者再定義：人與動物關係的轉變》。香港：三聯書店有限公司，2018年。

索妮亞•法樂頂著，范堯寬、曹熾恆譯，《傷心農場 — 從印尼到墨西哥，一段直擊動物生活實況的震撼之旅》。台北：商務印書館，2016年。

羅伯特•馬吉歐里著，楊智清譯，《哲學家與動物》。南京：社會科學文獻出版社，2017年。

潔西卡•皮爾斯著，祁毓里、李宜勳譯，《學會愛你的寵物伴侶》。台北：商周出版社，2016年。

唐克龍，《中國當代文學動物敘事研究》。天津：南開大學出版社，2010年。

黃宗潔，《牠鄉何處？—城市·動物與文學》。臺北：新學林，2017年。

黃宗慧，《以動物為鏡—12堂人與動物關係的生命思辨課》。台北：啟動文化，2018年。

羅伯茲著，余思瑩譯，《馴化：改變世界的10個物種》。台北：時報文化，2019年。

郭柏年，《定見之外：生活日常的哲學短篇》，香港：牛津大學出版社，2020年。

Contact:

| Lecturer | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Name: | Dr. Kwok Pak Nin, Samson |
| Office Location: | KHB 414 |
| Consultation Hour: | Tuesday 14:00-15:00 (Zoom) |
| Telephone: | 3943-1519 |
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Feedback for evaluation:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with lecturer.
2. Students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term as well as via regular feedback between teacher and students.

Academic honesty and plagiarism:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.