

Animals, Ethics, and the Environment.
10:00 am - 11:50 am MW | Sturm Hall 480
Autumn Quarter 2011
CRN 4998 Section 88

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Office Hours: 12pm - 1pm MW



Course Description.

What is our ethical responsibility to non-human animals and our environment? This seminar will introduce students to major philosophical questions in animal and environmental ethics: What are the key differences between humans and other animals? Is it ethical to eat, conduct tests on, and/or keep animals as pets? What are the environmental consequences of such decisions? How ought one to respond to unethical laws? Students will develop a cross-disciplinary perspective in the fields of animal studies, ethical theory, and environmental philosophy by understanding how contemporary philosophers, environmental scientists, ecologists, activists, and journalists have responded to key ethical questions concerning animals and the environment. Animal-machines, the life-world of the tick, ethical meat eating, radical vegetarianism, the evolution of pets, wilderness preservation, ecological sabotage, and civil disobedience will all be topics explored in this course.

This seminar will also introduce students to the processes of research, writing, and critical thinking by guiding them through an original research project on an issue in animal and environmental ethics. Students will learn to conduct collaborative research, write philosophical and argumentative papers, peer review each others work, and debate contemporary ethical issues in animal and environmental philosophy. This class will prepare students not only to make original contributions to the emerging field of animal ethics but will also provide them with conceptual tools for grappling with similar ethical issues in their personal lives.

Required Readings.

All texts are available as PDF's. Students are expected to print these texts and bring them to class every day. All texts in the reading are required reading.

Course Requirements.

1. Participation	10%
2. Three 2 page reading responses	30%
3. Proposal, Outline, and Bibliography	10%
4. First research paper (4-6 pages)	20%
5. Final term paper (8-10 pages)	30%

Participation/Attendance: You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending class, reading all assigned material prior to class, bringing all readings to class, and participating productively and professionally in class discussions. Missing three classes for any reason will result in a full grade reduction. An additional full grade reduction

will be made for each additional missed class after the third. You will be expected to document your presence in class by signing a daily roll sheet. Three late arrivals for class will count as one absence. If you fail to bring the appropriate texts to class you will be counted as late. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final grade. In addition to any penalties that you receive for failure to attend class, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

Reading Responses: There will be three 2 page reading responses that will articulate the positions of the author of the text and the response/evaluation of the student. These responses will then be peer reviewed and responded to by another student. These responses are intended to practice and develop writing skills and stimulate discussion during the class.

Proposal, Outline, and Bibliography: At the end of the third week of class students will turn in a 1-2 page proposal for their final research paper. This proposal is not a commitment to the topic, but is a way to get feedback and orient the student toward their final research topic in general. After the research topic has been approved the student will (in week four) turn in an outline of the structure of the paper and a bibliography of the works they intend to read and cite in their final essay. We will discuss all of these in scheduled conference in week five.

First Research Paper: This first research paper is not a “draft.” It will be graded independently from your final research paper. It will be 4-6 pages, and will later be expanded to an 8-10 page final research paper. The grade of this first research paper will also include your peer review of another students paper during Class Peer Review in week 6. Further details of this first research paper will be given in class.

Final Research Paper: This 8-10 page paper will be a revised and expanded version of your first research paper. It will also require (among other things) an expanded bibliography. This paper is due on the date scheduled for the final exam.

In Class Writing Assignments: There will be numerous in-class writing assignments approximately 10 pages over the course of the term. These assignments will also be part of your participation grade.

Policies.

Incompletes and extensions will be given only in the event of documented emergencies. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late.

Retaining copies of all coursework: Please retain copies of all work submitted and the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.

Computers and other electronic equipment: Use of electronic equipment, including cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS is prohibited during this class.

Exceptions to the prohibition of laptops may be requested from the instructor and will be granted only for legitimate academic reasons. Use of laptops for academic reasons will be monitored throughout the term, and failure to restrict their use to this function will result in the revocation of any laptop privileges.

Email: Please check your email regularly, I will be emailing you several times during the term.

Academic Honesty: Please review and familiarize yourself with the provisions of the University of Denver Honor Code regarding academic honesty. You can find a summary in each term's Schedule of Classes or at: <http://www.du.edu/studentlife/ccs/2010--2011%20Honor%20Code.pdf>. Violations of academic honesty will be met with disciplinary action (the usual punishment is an "F" for the course). Definitions and examples of plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are posted in the student life handbook.

Inclement Weather: It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced via email.

Advising

As your advisor I will also be setting up face-to-face meetings with each of you in during advising week in Fall term to help advise you for Winter 2012 registration and during Winter advising week for Spring 2012 registration.

Individual Differences: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. If you have a documented disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. Students may also contact the Disability Services Program (DSP) by email dsp@du.edu, phone (303-871-2278), or in person. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities and is located on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall, 1999 E. Evans Ave. DSP -- 303.871. 2278 / 7432 / 2455. Information is also available on line at <http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp>; see the Handbook for Students with Disabilities.

Reading Schedule. (schedule is subject to changes made by the instructor)

Unit	Week	Date	Activities	Readings Due	Assignments Due
Unit 1 Animals	Week 1 Classic	9/12	Introduction	Introductions, syllabus, course readings and expectations. Goals: 1. Learn to write, 2. Learn to Think/read critically.	
		9/14	Critical Reading Workshop	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> Book I, chapter 1-5. Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> (page 31-33).	
	Week 2 Modern	9/19		Kant, "Rational Beings Alone Have Moral Worth" Roberts, <i>The Mark of Beast</i> (page 3-15).	
		9/21	Unity and Coherence Workshop	Darwin, <i>The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals</i>	Reading Response 1
	Week 3 Recent	9/26		Jakob von Uexküll, <i>A Foray into the Worlds of Animals and Humans</i>	Proposal Due
		9/28	Research Workshop Visit Library	Griffin, "Animal Minds: Beyond Cognition to Consciousness"	
Unit 2 Ethics	Week 4 Eating	10/3		Peter Singer, "A Utilitarian Defense of Animal Liberation" Michael Pollin, <i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i>	
		10/5	Ethical Discussion and Argumentation Workshop	Lisa Heldke, "Pleasure Once Removed: Suffering, Violence and Eating"	Outline and Bibliography Due
	Week 5 Testing	10/10		No class.	Conferences
		10/12	Essay Writing Workshop 1	DeGrazia, "The Ethics of Animal Research" Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights"	Reading Response 2
	Week 6 Pets	10/17		Bernard Rollins, "Dogmatism and Catechisms: Ethics and Companion Animals"	
		10/19	Peer Review Workshop	Donna Haraway, <i>Companion Species Manifesto</i> (1-32)	First Draft Due Class Peer Review
Unit 3 Environment	Week 7 Eco centrism	10/24	SPEP	No Class	
		10/26		Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation"	
	Week 8 Rights	10/31		Sagoff "Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce"	
		11/2		Snyder, "The Place, the Region and the Commons"	Reading Response 3
	Week 9 Farming	11/7	Essay Writing Workshop 2	LaDuke, "Buffalo Nations, Buffalo Peoples"	
		11/9			Conferences
	Week 10 Activism	11/14		Foreman, "Putting the Earth First," "Strategic Monkeywrenching" Hargrove, "Ecological Sabotage: Pranks or Terrorism?" (with replies)	
		11/16	Course Evaluations (bring laptops)	Martin, "Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience" Regan, "Understanding Animal Rights Violence"	
		11/19-11/22	Final Essay due.	Final Essay Due	