

**6823 Human-Animal Relations**  
MH 3.02.52 – Thursday 9:00-11:45

**instructor:** Jamon Halvaksz

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**office hours:** Tuesday 9:00-12:00 & by appointment

**Catalog description:** This course is centered on the interactions between human and nonhuman animals. Topics may include animal histories, agencies and behaviors; the role of animals in biotechnology, research, and agricultural practices; domesticates and companion species; animal rights and human values; cross-cultural classification and the social construction of animals.

**Objectives:** Students will gain an understanding of both the history of human-animal studies in Anthropology and contemporary approaches to the topic.

**Required texts** (additional readings will be available through the library’s electronic databases, or via blackboard):

Govindrajan 2018 *Animal Intimacies* University of Chicago Press

Kirksey 2015 *Emergent Ecologies* Duke University Press

Lien 2015 *Becoming Salmon*. University of California Press

Morrison 2014 *We3* DC Comics

Suzuki 2017 *Nature of Whiteness* University of Washington Press

**Grading:**

Grades will be based on Attendance, Participation, Presentation and Discussion, and Writing as detailed below.

Attendance and Participation	60
Presentation and discussion	60
Reaction Statements	80
Paper	100
Total	300 points

**Attendance and participation:** Attendance will be taken and participation evaluated throughout the class. Absences and silences will be noted. I will let you know if you are losing points here.

**Presentation, critical evaluation and discussion:** Students will lead discussion twice during the course of the term (30 points each time). During the presentations, students will present a brief summary of the assigned readings, raise critical questions and direct the rest of the class in discussions.

**Writing:** The writing component in the class will include an academic paper on an animal related to your research (your familiar), and short reaction statements on the assigned readings.

**A. Term Paper:** Each student will choose an animal of interest from their own research and complete the following projects by the date indicated:

- Term paper will consist of at least 12-15 pages examining the human-animal interface related to the animal of your choice. The paper can include both the academic and popular portrayals of the species. In addition to discussing the literature, effort should be made towards:
  - a. Examining what we know about and from the species as part of the world.
  - b. Identifying what we don't know about the human-animal relationship of the species in question as a possible direction for future research.
  - c. Connecting to course readings topically and theoretically.

Standard formatting and style should be included (double spaced, standard margins, font, etc.) and include a bibliography (which does not count toward the page total). Given variation in student interests, I am willing to consider alternative foci for the paper as long as the theme of the class is adhered to. (100 points)

**B. Reaction Statements:** Each student will be expected to write 8 short reaction statements over the course of the term. Reaction statements will consist of 1½-2 pages of written text excluding heading and references cited; typed, double spaced – no more than 2, no less than 1. I will not read papers that do not follow these guidelines and a zero will be recorded for that week. The statements should not be exhaustive, but should focus on themes and points of interest to the student. They can take the form of main points from each reading and questions that you would like to raise during discussion. Reaction statements for the second week of class is mandatory for everyone. If you complete more, the lowest grades will be dropped. They are due by 9pm on the Wednesday before class. (10 points each)

**Academic Policies, including Misconduct:** The University of Texas at San Antonio has clear policies concerning disruptive classroom behaviors, plagiarism, and other forms of misconduct (see [www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.cfm](http://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.cfm)). Plagiarism can be as simple as collaborating with a classmate on an assignment that is intended to show individual effort. A common form in this class is failure to appropriately cite sources in the ethnography paper. More serious forms include cheating or copying another's work as your own. Cutting and pasting from internet sources is particularly problematic as the material on-line is not always accurate, and this is plagiarism. The college's policies regarding this and other misconduct are available in written form, and you are expected to know them and follow them.

You can also refer to the UTSA Student Code of Conduct on scholastic dishonesty and disciplinary action (<http://www.utsa.edu/OSJA/index.cfm>). There are clear procedures for instructors and students to follow in the event of misconduct, harassment, or other unwanted behaviors, along with appropriate consequences for infractions. Students who ignore these policies will minimally receive an F on the associated assignment, but could receive an F for the course at my discretion.

**Access/Accommodations:** Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities and learning needs. If you need accommodation in order to fully participate in the course, information about the Disability Services can be found at their web site ([www.utsa.edu/disability/](http://www.utsa.edu/disability/)), or call them at 458-4157. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do as well.

Other college services include:

*Writing Center:* [www.utsa.edu/twc/index.html](http://www.utsa.edu/twc/index.html)

*Counseling:* (210) 458-4140, RWC1.810

*Academic advising (general):* (210) 458-8000

*Tomás Rivera Center:* [www.utsa.edu/trcss](http://www.utsa.edu/trcss) or (210) 458-4694

**The Honor Code!!!!** <<http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed/honorcode.html>>  
**SA Animal Codes!!!** <<https://www.sanantonio.gov/Animal-Care/Laws-Fees/Ordinances-Laws>>

## Class Schedule

### **Week 1 / August 29: Introduction**

### **Week 2 / September 5**

#### **Theoretical background: Animal structures, symbols and classifications**

- Bulmer, R (1973) 'Why the Cassowary is not a Bird' in Douglas, M, *Rules and Meanings* London: Harmondsworth
- Douglas, Mary. 1957. Animals in Lele Religious symbolism. *Africa* 27(1): 46-58
- Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1974[1940]. Interest in Cattle. Chapter 1 in *The Nuer*. Oxford University Press
- Howe, James. 1981. Fox hunting as ritual. *American Ethnologist* 8(2): 278-300
- Hunn, Eugene. 1982. The Utilitarian Factor in Folk Biological Classification. *American Anthropologist* 84(4) :830-847

### **Week 3 / September 12**

#### **Animal Histories**

- Mitchell, Timothy. 2002. Can the Mosquito Speak? Chapter 1 in *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. University of California Press.
- Ritvo, Harriet. 2004. Animal Planet. *Environmental History* 9(2): 204-220
- Ritvo, Harriet. 1997. The Animal Estate: The English and Other Creatures in the Victorian Age. Harvard University Press. Chapters 5 & 6

### **Week 4 / September 19**

**\*Peer-Reviewed Bibliography Due\***

#### **Animal commodities**

- Castree, Noel. 2003. Commodifying what nature? *Progress in Human Geography* 27(3):273-297
- Collard R-C, Dempsey J, 2013, "Life for sale? The politics of lively commodities" *Environment and Planning A* 45(11): 2682–2699
- Dushane, Allison. 2017. We3 and the Violence of Sentimentality.
- Morrison 2014 *We3* DC Comics.
- West, Paige. 2016. *Dispossession and the Environment*, chpt 3, Discovering the Already Known: Tree Kangaroos, Explorer Imaginings, and Indigenous Articulations. New York: Columbia University Press

### **Week 5 / September 26**

#### **Animal Conservations**

- Suzuki 2017 *Nature of Whiteness* University of Washington Press

## **Week 6 / October 3:**

### **Multispecies, part 1**

- Bateson, Gregory. 1972. *Metatalk: Why a Swan?* In *Steps to an Ecological Mind*. Balentine Walden Books.
- Danielle DiNovelli-Lang. 2013. The Return of the Animal: Posthumanism, Indigeneity, and Anthropology. *Environment and Society* 4
- Kirksey, Eben and Stefan Helmreich. 2010. The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography. *Cultural Anthropology*
- Nadasdy, Paul. 2007. The gift in the Animal: The Ontology of Hunting and human-animal sociality. *American Ethnologist* 34(1):25-43

## **Week 7 / October 10**

### **Animals and worldview**

- Govindrajana 2018 *Animal Intimacies* University of Chicago Press.

## **Week 8 / October 17**

### **Multispecies, part 2**

- Derrida, Jacques. 2002. The Animal That Therefore I Am (More to Follow). Trans. David Wills, *Critical Inquiry* 28: 373-418.
- Haraway, Donna. 2008. *When Species Meet*, Chapter 1-3

## **Week 9 / October 24**

### **Mundane Animals**

- Lien 2015 *Becoming Salmon*.

## **Week 10 / October 31**

### **Animal Sciences**

- Callon, M. 1999. Some Elements of a Sociology in Translation: Domestication of the Scallop and the Fishermen of St. Brieuc Bay. In Biagidi (ed), *The Science Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Feuntes, A. 2012. Ethnoprimateology and the Anthropology of the Human-Primate Interface. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41: 101-117
- Helmreich, Stefan. 2005. How Scientists Think; About 'Natives,' for Example: A Problem of Taxonomy among Biologists of Alien Species in Hawaii. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 11(1):107-127
- Lowe, Celia. 2004. Making the monkey: How the Togeian Macaque went from 'new form' to 'endemic species' in Indonesians' conservation biology. *Cultural Anthropology* 19(4): 491-516.
- Rheana Salazar Parrenas. 2012. Producing Affect: Transnational Volunteerism in a Malaysian Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. *American Ethnologist*. 39(4):673-687

**Week 11 / November 7**

**Multispecies, part 3**

Required

- Kirksey 2015 *Emergent Ecologies* Duke University Press

**Week 12 / November 14**

**What's next?**

Required

- Fuentes, Agustin. 2016. The Extended Evolutionary Synthesis, Ethnography and the Human Niche: Toward an Integrated Anthropology. *Current Anthropology* 57 (s13)
- Ogden, Laura. 2018. The Beaver Diaspora: A thought experiment. *Environmental Humanities* 10(1):63-85
- Tsing, Anna, Andrew Mathews, and Nils Bubandt. 2019. Patchy Anthropocene: Landscape Structure, Multispecies History and the Retooling of Anthropology. *Current Anthropology* 60(s20):s186-s197.
- van Dooren, Thom and Deborah Bird Rose. 2016. Lively Ethography: Storying Animist Worlds. *Environmental Humanities* 8(1): 77-94
- Watts, Vanessa. 2013. Indigenous 'Place-Thought' And Agency Amongst Humans and Non-Humans (First Woman and Sky Woman Go on a European World Tour!). *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*. 2(1): 20-34.

**Week 13 / November 21 (American Anthropology Association Meetings\_**

**No Class, work independently on final papers**

**Week 14 / November 28**

**Thanksgiving, no class**

**Week 15 / December 5.**

Film: TBD

**Final Paper Due**