

SOC/ENV 288: Animals & Society
Ursinus College
Spring 2016

General Course Information

Meeting Time: MWF 8:00-8:50
 Room: 202 Bomberger
 Instructor: Jonathan L. Clark
 Email: jclark@ursinus.edu
 Office: 222 Bomberger Hall
 Phone: Ext. 4283
 Office Hours: Fridays (11:00-2:30) or by appointment, if necessary.
 Prerequisite: Any 100-level course in Anthropology or Sociology, or permission of the instructor.

This course examines human-animal relationships in the contemporary United States. Some of the issues we'll discuss this semester may make you uncomfortable, and confronting them may even force you to begin questioning how you've been living your life. I'm well aware that, simply by teaching this course, I'm raising questions that many people would prefer not to discuss, particularly right before breakfast. So let me be clear from the outset about my goals and expectations. I'm not trying to bring you around to my way of thinking, and I don't want you to tell me what you think I want to hear. What I want is for you to develop your own answer to what I regard as one of the most fundamental questions we face: What does it mean to be human, and how should we live our lives, in a more-than-human world?

Course Goals

This course fulfills the College's core requirement for social science ("SS"). The College's main goal for social science courses is to enable students to "[d]escribe the complex relationship of the individual and society." In this course, students will be expected to develop a position on the question of whether society is an exclusively human realm. Students will also be expected to provide examples of how society shapes the relationships people have with other animals.

Required Books

Arluke, Arnold and Clinton R. Sanders. 1996. *Regarding Animals*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 2011. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. 2nd ed. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Grazian, David. 2015. *American Zoo: A Sociological Safari*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

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

- Kim, Claire Jean. 2015. *Dangerous Crossings: Race, Species, and Nature in a Multicultural Age*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Pachirat, Timothy. 2011. *Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- van Dooren, Thom. 2014. *Flight Ways: Life and Loss at the Edge of Extinction*. New York: Columbia University Press.

You're also required to purchase the American Sociological Association's current style guide, which is available electronically from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and iBooks:

<http://asa.enoah.com/Bookstore/Reference-Materials/BKctl/ViewDetails/SKU/ASAOE701S14>

Credit Hours and Workload

Although we will meet three hours per week, this is a four-credit course. I expect you to engage in more than an additional hour of work per week outside of class. Through various activities, including engaging closely with the assigned readings, contributing to the course blog, reading your classmates' contributions to the blog, going on a field trip, observing human-animal relationships, and writing papers and fieldnotes, you should expect to work at least three hours outside of class for every hour you work in class.

Grading

Participation: 20% (10% for the blog, and 10% for in-class participation)

Papers:

Mini-Ethnography: 20%

Reaction Paper One: 30%

Reaction Paper Two: 30%

Grading Scale:

96.7 and above	A+
93.3 to 96.6	A
90.0 to 93.2	A-
86.7 to 89.9	B+
83.3 to 86.6	B
80.0 to 83.2	B-
76.7 to 79.9	C+
73.3 to 76.6	C
70.0 to 73.2	C-
66.7 to 69.9	D+
63.3 to 66.6	D
60.0 to 63.2	D-
59.9 and below	F

Participation:

Your participation grade will be based upon your contribution to the course blog, your attendance (see below), your degree of preparation for class, and the significance of your overall contribution to class discussions. What matters is your participation over the course of the semester.

Each of you will contribute to a course blog on Canvas. Canvas does not have a blog feature, so we will use “Discussions” for this purpose. By 11:59 PM on the night before class, you must post your entry. Unless I give you a prompt, you have free range with your entry; the only requirement is that you engage in some way with the reading. Engaging with the entries posted by your classmates is also encouraged. A typical entry should be approximately one paragraph long. The purpose of the blog is to highlight key issues for us to explore in class. Your score for the blog portion of your participation grade will be based upon *how much effort* you put into your entries.

What is A-level participation? Over the course of the semester, an A student does an outstanding job of using both the blog and in-class discussion to contribute to our collective engagement with the material. Having done the reading, reflected on its significance, and written a substantive blog entry, the student comes to class well prepared. In the classroom, the student is fully engaged on a regular basis, making substantive points and responding to points made by fellow students and by me. The student takes initiative, talking without having to be called on. Over the course of the semester, the student emerges as a discussion leader who helps facilitate discussion on a regular basis.

Reaction Papers:

You’ll write two papers responding to the readings. I’ll provide a prompt and a grading rubric for each paper. The papers should be between five and seven pages long, not including the references page(s). Use twelve-point font, double-spacing, and one-inch margins. Use the ASA style guide for your in-text citations and for your references. Submit your papers to me by email, in PDF format. Include your last name in the file name. I’ll accept papers only by email and only in PDF format. Papers are due by 11:59 PM on the due date. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day, and any paper that is more than five days late will receive a zero. Start working on your paper as soon as possible so that any unexpected events that occur near the deadline do not result in your paper being late.

Mini-Ethnography:

You’ll write a mini-ethnography on the human-animal relationships you observe during our field trip to Chenoa Manor. I’ll provide you with a detailed prompt and a grading rubric. Your paper should be between five and seven pages long, not including the references page(s). Place any photos or similar materials in an appendix, which will not count towards your page limit. Use twelve-point font, double-spacing, and one-inch margins. Use the ASA style guide for your in-text citations and for your references. Submit your paper to me by email, in PDF format. Include your last name in the file name. I’ll accept papers only by email and only in PDF format. Papers are due by 11:59 PM on the due date. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day, and any paper that is more than five days late will receive a zero.

Start working on your paper as soon as possible so that any unexpected events that occur near the deadline do not result in your paper being late.

Attendance Policy

Ursinus College's attendance policy provides as follows:

The Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Wellness Center do not provide excused absences from class for any reason (illness, family, personal, etc.). In the event that a student experiences a significant health problem or other issue that may prevent them from performing adequately in their academic work and/or attending class for a number of days, students should notify the Office of Student Affairs. The Student Affairs phone and email contact is Lynda Manz: lmanz@ursinus.edu or 610 409-3590. In emergencies where faculty notification is not feasible, the Office of Student Affairs staff can assist students with faculty notifications. Upon students' return to class, it is their responsibility to talk to professors and to develop a plan for making up missed work.

You must have a good reason (e.g., illness or religious observance) for me to excuse an absence. Beginning with the second one, each unexcused absence will reduce your classroom participation grade by 5%. Except in extraordinary circumstances, five unexcused absences will result in automatic failure for the course. Disruptive lateness will be treated as an unexcused absence. You are required to blog even if you are absent; post your entry on or before the day you return to class. (If I have already closed the discussion, please email your entry to me.)

Tips for reading the assigned texts

When reading a particular text, ask yourself the following four questions: What is the central issue or question with which the author is grappling? What answer does the author ultimately arrive at? What is the chain of reasoning by which the author arrives at that answer? And what is the most significant shortcoming in the author's argument? After finishing a rough draft of one of your papers, try asking these questions about it, too.

Policy on Electronic Devices

They may be used only for class purposes.

Severe Weather Cancellations

I'll notify you by email should I need to cancel class.

Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism will result either in a zero for the assignment or in failure for the course. Please note that plagiarism need not be intentional. To avoid plagiarizing unintentionally, acknowledge the source, either by citing or quoting, when you use someone else's ideas or words. Following the ASA Style Guide will help you avoid plagiarizing. Here is the definition of plagiarism with which we will operate:

Plagiarism is the act of taking the ideas or words—written or spoken—of someone else and passing them off as one’s own. You are plagiarizing if you copy exactly a statement by another and fail to identify your source. You are plagiarizing if you take notes from a book, an article, a lecture or the internet, express those materials in your own words, and present the result as your work without identifying your source. You are plagiarizing if you copy part or all of a paper written by a friend, another student, or a writing service and offer it as your own work.

You are plagiarizing if you take material verbatim from a source (even though the source is acknowledged) without identifying it as quoted material by means of quotation marks. Plagiarism is easy to avoid by using common sense and following the advice and directions for acknowledging sources. Such forms and methods are available from professors and style sheets provided by departments as well as by a composition textbook. Never take notes verbatim or in your own words without using appropriate quotation marks and noting exact sources, including page number of the material.

<https://www.ursinus.edu/student-life/handbook/academic-policies/academic-honesty/>

SPTQ

At the end of the semester, please fill out the SPTQ. Your feedback helps me improve my courses.

Date	Topic	Readings, Due Dates, and Other Information
1/18	Sociology in a more-than-human world	<i>Regarding Animals</i> , Introduction and Ch. 1 FYI: http://www.animalsandsociety.org ; http://www.asanet.org/sectionanimals/animals.cfm
1/20		1) <i>Regarding Animals</i> , Ch. 7 and Conclusion 2) Chapter 8, “The Moral Status of Mice,” from Hal Herzog, <i>Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat</i> .

Date	Topic	Readings, Due Dates, and Other Information
1/22	Multispecies ethnography	1) S. Eben Kirksey and Stefan Helmreich, "The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography." http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/61966 2) <i>Regarding Animals</i> , Ch. 2 FYI: http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/277-the-emergence-of-multispecies-ethnography ; http://www.multispecies-salon.org ; https://aesengagement.wordpress.com
1/25	Writing ethnographic fieldnotes	<i>Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes</i> , Prefaces and Chapters 1 and 2
1/27		Ch. 3
1/29		Ch. 4
2/1		Ch. 5
2/3		Ch. 6
2/5		Chapters 7 and 8 Mini-Ethnography Assigned
2/6		Fieldtrip to Chenoa Manor: http://www.chenoamanor.org Post your fieldnotes to the blog by 11:59 PM on 2/7.
2/8	Ethics	<i>Entangled Empathy</i> , Preface, Foreword, Introduction, and Ch. 1
2/10		Ch. 2
2/12		Ch. 3
2/15		Ch. 4 and Afterword Mini-Ethnography Due
2/17	Extinction	<i>Flight Ways</i> , Introduction and Ch. 1
2/19		Ch. 2

Date	Topic	Readings, Due Dates, and Other Information
2/22		Ch. 3
2/24		Ch. 4
2/26		Ch. 5 and Epilogue
2/29	Zoos	<i>American Zoo</i> , Introduction and Ch. 1
3/2		Ch. 2
3/4		Ch. 3
3/14		Ch. 4
3/16		Ch. 5
3/18		Ch. 6
3/21		Ch. 7
3/23		Ch. 8 Reaction Paper One Assigned
3/25	Meat	<i>Every Twelve Seconds</i> , Acknowledgments and Chapters 1 and 2
3/28		Ch. 3
3/30		Ch. 4 Reaction Paper One Due
4/1		Ch. 5
4/4		Ch. 6
4/6		Ch. 7
4/8		Ch. 8
4/11		Ch. 9
4/13	Race & Species	<i>Dangerous Crossings</i> , Ch. 1

Date	Topic	Readings, Due Dates, and Other Information
4/15		Ch. 2
4/18		Ch. 3
4/20		Ch. 4
4/22		Ch. 5
4/25		Ch. 6
4/27		Ch. 7
4/29		Chapters 8 and 9 Reaction Paper Two Assigned
		Reaction Paper Two due during finals week, on a day to be decided.