

**SOC 101 – 6 First-Year Seminar**  
**ANIMALS AND SOCIETY: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO THE RELATIONSHIPS**  
**BETWEEN HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN SPECIES**      **Fall quarter 2019**

Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 3:20; Allison Residential Common 1021  
 Professor: Wendy Griswold; [w-griswold@northwestern.edu](mailto:w-griswold@northwestern.edu)  
 Peer Adviser: Olivia Stent [oliviastent2022@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:oliviastent2022@u.northwestern.edu)

This seminar explores the relationship between humans and non-human species from a sociological viewpoint. Topics include: the history of animal-human relations; the moral status of animals; how gender, class, and race-ethnicity impact our dealings with animals; zoos and shelters; the relationship between violence toward animals and toward people; animal rights movements; animal therapy; and the question of whether animals are part of society.

My office hours are by appointment, whenever time is convenient for both of us. Please set up appointments by e-mail and let me know what you want to discuss so I'll be prepared. For quick questions you can always catch me right before or after class for consultations-in-the-hall.

**Books for required reading: These have been ordered at Norton and are on reserve in the library**

- DeMello, Margo. 2012. *Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies*. New York: Columbia University Press. 978-0-231-15295-2
- Grazian, David. 2015. *American Zoo: A Sociological Safari*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 978-0-691178424
- Irvine, Leslie. 2013. *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*. Boulder, CO & London: Lynne Rienner. ISBN 978-1-58826-888-4.
- Jerolmack, Colin. 2013. *The Global Pigeon*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-226-00208-8

**Expectations**

- Regular, on-time attendance
- Active and prepared participation in class discussions
- Written work edited and turned in on time
- Communication with me about problems, new ideas, anything you want or need to discuss

**Writing and oral presentation assignments**

Students will write six short papers (from 1 paragraph to 6-7 pages). Students will deliver an oral report on their final papers. The fourth paper is collaborative, i.e., by teams of 2 or 3 students.

**Evaluation**

- Six short writing assignments: 60%
- Class participation, including oral presentation: 40%

**WEEKS 1 – 3: HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND SOCIOLOGICAL**  
**APPROACHES TO THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN**  
**SPECIES**

**Week 1 What is an animal?**

**Tuesday, September 24**

Assignment for today: Zerubavel, Eviatar. 1991. *The Fine Line: Making Distinctions in Everyday Life*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction and chs. 1 & 2, pp. 1 – 32.

[Important: All assignments, including this one, are to be completed **before class**. We will be discussing this reading in today's class.]

### Thursday, September 26

Assignment for today: Thomas, Keith. 1984. *Man and the Natural World: Changing Attitudes in England 1500 – 1800*. London: Penguin. Ch. 3 “Men and Animals,” pp. 92 - 142.

**SUMMARY - First writing assignment: Write one paragraph summing up Bruni's argument. Due Tuesday**

### Week 2. Do animals have moral status? Do humans have obligations?

#### Tuesday, October 1

Assignment for today: DeMello, *Animals and Society*, Ch. 18 “The Moral Status of Animals,” pp. 377 – 395.

#### Thursday, October 3

Assignment for today: Nussbaum, Martha. 2007. “The Moral Status of Animals” [same title, different article]. In *The Animals Reader*. Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald ed. Oxford & New York: Berg. Pp. 30 – 36.

### Week 3. Single species, multiple meanings

#### Tuesday, October 8. **BLOCK MUSEUM MEETING**

Assignment for today: Jerolmack, *The Global Pigeon*, Part 1, pp. 1 – 75.

#### Thursday, October 10

Assignment for today: Jerolmack, *The Global Pigeon*, Part 2, pp. 79 – 156.

**INTERPRETATION - Second writing assignment: Write a three-page interpretation of the Block image you have chosen. Discuss the interaction that is depicted and the underlying assumptions about the human-animal relationship that the image suggests. Due Tuesday.**

### WEEKS 4 – 6: SOCIOLOGICAL VARIABLES IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-HUMAN SPECIES

### Week 4. Animals and poverty

#### Tuesday, October 15

Assignment for today: Leslie Irvine, *My Dog Always Eats First*, Chs. 1- 4, pp. 1-86.

**Before our Library visit: Formulate a research question for your final paper. This does not need to be written yet, but you should have it in mind when we go to the Library.**

#### Thursday, October 17. **LIBRARY MEETING, B238, lower level**

Assignment for today: Leslie Irvine, *My Dog Always Eats First*, Chs. 5-8, pp. 87-172.

**RESEARCH QUESTION – Third writing assignment: State the research question for your final paper. In no more than two pages, sketch what you will need to do in order to answer the question. Due Tuesday.**

## **Week 5. Animals and gender**

### **Tuesday, October 22**

Assignment for today: (1) Ramirez. "Dog Ownership as a Gender Display. In *Between the Species: Readings in Human-Animal Relations*. Arnold Arluke & Clinton Sanders, eds. Boston: Pearson. Pp. 53 – 60.

(2) Herzog, Hal. 2011. *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight about Animals*. New York: Harper Perennial. Ch. 5, "Prom Queen Kills First Deer on Sixteenth Birthday: Gender and the Human-Animal Relationship." Pp. 129 – 147.

### **Thursday, October 24**

Assignment for today: Evans, Rhonda, DeAnn K. Gauthier & Craif J. Forsyth. 1998. "Dogfighting: Symbolic Validation of Masculinity." *Sex Roles* 39: 825 – 838.

**OBSERVATION – Fourth writing assignment: Observe one or more human-animal interactions on the streets of Evanston. Give a detailed description of what you observe and discuss it in terms of our readings on gender. This paper is collaborative; you will work in teams of two or three students. Four pages, due Tuesday.**

## **Week 6. Animals, oppression, race**

### **Tuesday, October 29**

Assignment for today: (1) DeMello, *Animals and Society*, ch. 13 "Human Oppression and Animal Suffering," pp. 256-279.

(2) Elder, Glen, Jennifer Wolch, & Jody Emel. 2009. "Race, Place, and the Human-Animal Divide." In *Between the Species: Readings in Human-Animal Relations*. Arnold Arluke & Clinton Sanders, eds. Boston: Pearson. Pp. 21 – 33.

### **Thursday, October 31**

Assignment for today: Elijah Anderson, *Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community* Ch. 1 (pp. 7 – 55) and Ch. 8 (207 – 236).

**DRAFT – Fifth writing assignment: Draft a five-page paper addressing your research question. Sometime during the next several weeks you will be going to The Writing Place to work on the final version. You will be working on this paper for the rest of the quarter.**

## **WEEKS 7-9: INSTITUTIONS, MOVEMENTS, AND INTERACTIONS INVOLVING HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN SPECIES**

### **Week 7 Are zoos for animals? For humans? For the planet?**

#### **Tuesday, November 5.**

Assignment for today: David Grazian, *American Zoo*, Chs. 1 – 4, pp. 1 – 140.

#### **Thursday, November 7**

Assignment for today: David Grazian, *American Zoo*, Chs. 5 - 8, pp. 141 – 272.

At 2:30 Meaghan Considine will come to introduce The Writing Place. All students in the seminar must meet with a writing counselor at The Writing Place to work on turning their drafts into their final paper.

## **Week 8 Humans protecting animals**

**Tuesday, November 12** Assignment for today: (1) Favre & Tsang. 1993. "The Development of Anti-Cruelty Laws During the 1800s." *Detroit College of Law Review* 1: 1-35.

(2) DeMello, *Animals and Society*, Ch. 19 "The Animal Protection Movement," pp. 396 - 418.

### **Thursday, November 14 Deborah Rosenberg coming for Advising Visit**

Assignment for today: DeMello, *Animals and Society*, Ch. 9, "Animals and Science," pp. 170 – 193. Also today everyone will give a brief oral statement of their research question and where it stands.

## **Week 9 Animals protecting humans**

### **Tuesday, November 19**

Assignment for today: DeMello, *Animals and Society*, Ch. 10, "Animal-Assisted Activities," pp. 194 – 213.

### **Thursday, November 21**

Assignment for today: **FINAL PAPER: The sixth writing assignment and it should be 6-7 pages in length, including references. Today ORAL PRESENTATIONS (1) of Final papers. Written papers due on Tuesday, though you may turn them in earlier.**

## **WEEK 10: ARE ANIMALS PART OF SOCIETY? WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO INCLUDE THEM?**

### **Tuesday, November 26**

Assignment for today: **ORAL PRESENTATIONS (2); FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY**

### **Thursday, November 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**Monday, December 2:** This week is WCAS Reading Period. I have arranged our schedule so that you will have already finished your work for our seminar; this week you can concentrate on your other classes that have final examinations. Of course I'll be available to talk with you any time during that period even though we won't be meeting as a class.