

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2024/25 1st semester
UGEC2858 Animals and Society: A Philosophical Approach
Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Kwok Pak Nin, Samson
Time: Tuesday 15:30-18:15
Venue: LSK 515

Course overview:

This course examines the social issues of animal from the philosophical perspectives. What are the key differences humans and other animals? Is it ethical to raise and slaughter animals for food, conduct tests on, and buying or keeping animals as pets? How ought one to respond to unethical laws on animals? What are the social impacts of these actions? Students will develop an interdisciplinary perspective in the fields of animal studies, ethical theory, sociology 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 rights and its social implication. Topics to be discussed include: animal-human borders, ethical meat eating, animal experiment, and the ethics of keeping pets.

This course bears on several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By transforming our attitude towards and relationship with animal, we enjoy the mental health benefits of a deepened appreciation of and connection with them (SDG#3 Good Health and Well-Being). By exploring the key difference between human and animals, we deepen our understand toward ourself and different species on earth (SDG#14 Life below water & SDG#15 Life on land). Finally, by reimagining our relationship with animal, we can envision for a just society in which all species could co-exist peacefully (SDG#16 Peace, Justice and Strong institutions).

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	Weight
Discussion	Class Discussion (individual)	5%
	Class Discussion (group)	20%
Midterm	Take Home Short Question	30%
Essay	Term-end Paper	45%

Grade Descriptors:

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

Late submission policy:

Assignments submitted after the due date will incur a 10% grade reduction per day. Extensions will only be granted in cases of unexpected or exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control.

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 3	Introduction: Why Animals Matter?	
2	Sept 10	The Animal-Human Borders & Domestication of Animals	
3	Sept 17	The Social and Cultural Representation of Animals	
4	Sept 24	The Moral Status of Animals: Utilitarian, Kant, and Right-based Approach	
5	Oct 1	<u>Public Holiday</u>	
6	Oct 8	The Moral Status of Animals: Capabilities, The Abolitionist, and Difference Thesis Approach	<i><u>Take Home Question announcement</u></i>
7	Oct 15	Animals as Food: Meat Culture and Meat Industry	
8	Oct 22	Animals as Food: The Ethics of Meat Eating	
9	Oct 29	Animals as Tool: Zoos and Entertainment	<i><u>1st Group Discussion Section</u></i>
10	Nov 5	Animals as Tool: The Ethics of Animal Experiment and Animal-Assisted Activities	
11	Nov 12	Animals as family member: Pet-o-philía and Zoophilia	
12	Nov 19	Animals as family member: The Ethics of Commodification and Keeping pets	<i><u>Term-end Paper announcement</u></i>
13	Nov 26	Conclusion: Peaceful Co-existence? Animals as Citizen?	<i><u>2nd Group Discussion Section</u></i>

Recommended learning resources:**Main Reference:**

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

錢永祥，《人性之鏡：動物倫理的歷史與哲學》。台灣：聯經出版社，2023年。

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.

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

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

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.

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.

朱立安·巴吉尼著，謝佩奴譯，《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。

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。

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》增訂版，香港：牛津大學出版社，2024年。

郭柏年，《流光之中：時間向度的人生哲學短篇》，香港：牛津大學出版社，2024年。

Contact:

Lecturer	
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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.