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21H.909 People and Other Animals
Fall 2005

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21H.909
PEOPLE AND OTHER ANIMALS

Fall 2007
T 11-1

Prof. H. Ritvo

Subject Description

A historical survey of the ways that people have interacted with their closest animal relatives, for example: hunting, domestication of livestock, exploitation of animal labor, scientific study of animals, display of exotic and performing animals, and pet keeping. Themes include changing ideas about animal agency and intelligence, our moral obligations to animals, and the limits imposed on the use of animals.

Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the MIT bookstore or from various online vendors:

Sarah Franklin, *Dolly Mixtures* (Duke University Press)
Anita Guerrini, *Experimenting with Humans and Animals* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
Vicki Hearne, *Adam's Task* (Skyhorse Publishing)
Harriet Ritvo, *The Animal Estate* (Harvard University Press)
Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty* (Signet)
Noelie Vialles, *Animal to Edible* (Cambridge University Press)
H. G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (Penguin)

Other readings can be accessed via the class website.

Required readings for everyone are listed on the schedule below. Additional required readings for graduate students are listed on a separate schedule. (Of course, undergraduates are very welcome to read them too.) Suggestions for supplementary reading, as well as related websites, are listed on the class website.

Written Assignments

A research paper will be due at the end of the semester—12 pages for undergraduates, 25 pages for graduate students. A proposal, bibliography, and progress report will be due as indicated in the schedule. I will be happy to read and comment on drafts if they are submitted at least two weeks before the final paper is due.

In addition, each week students will hand in a brief (1-2 pages) response to the readings.

Non-written Assignments

Although most of the readings are historical, the issues they deal with are also contemporary. Therefore, on most weeks one student will introduce the class by linking its theme to current (or recent) events, institutions, and practices. Also, there will be no class on September 25. During that week each student will visit a local animal-related institution, and will report on that visit in writing and in class on October 2.

Students will give a brief oral report on the progress of their research on November 20 and a 15-minute presentation on December 11.

Schedule of Classes

September 11	Introduction
September 18	Hunting AE, ch 6 Jim Corbett, <u>Man-Eaters of Kumaon</u> , introduction, ch. 1 George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" Colonial Animal Protection Laws
September 25	No class. Individual visits to local animal-related institutions.
October 2	Domestication and Breeding AE, ch.1 Juliet Clutton-Brock, <u>Natural History of Domesticated Mammals</u> , pp. 9-112 Sarah Franklin, <u>Dolly Mixtures</u> , chs. 2-3
October 9	NO CLASS—Columbus Day Holiday Schedule conferences to discuss research projects
October 16	Meat (or not) Harriet Ritvo, <u>The Platypus and the Mermaid</u> , ch. 5 Noelie Vialles, <u>Animal to Edible</u> Research paper proposal due
October 23	Pets AE, ch. 2 Vicki Hearne, <u>Adam's Task</u> , chs 2-4, 8-10 Konrad Lorenz, <u>Man Meets Dog</u> , chs. 4,6,17
October 30	Animal Exploitation and Animal Protection AE, ch 3 Anna Sewell, <u>Black Beauty</u>

- Anita Guerrini, Experimenting with Humans and Animals, chs.4-6, conclusion
 Research paper annotated bibliography due
- November 6 Animals and Infection
 AE, ch 4
 Ritvo, Harriet: "Mad cow mysteries," American Scholar (67:2) Spring 1998, 113-122
 Sarah Franklin, Dolly Mixtures, ch. 5
 Paul Brassley, "The Ministry and the Malady," History Today (Nov. 2001)
- November 13 Animals on Display
 AE, Introduction, ch.5
 John Berger, "Why Look at Animals?"
 Donna Haraway, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936," Social Text 11 (Winter, 1984), pp. 20-64
- November 20 Studying Animals: Field Observation, Experimentation and Imagination
 H. G. Wells, The Island of Dr. Moreau
- November 27 Studying Animals: Field Observation and Ethology
 Jane Goodall, In the Shadow of Man, chs. 1-3
 Sara Hrdy, The Woman That Never Evolved, ch. 1
 Biruté Galdikas, Reflections of Eden, chs. 1-4
 Dian Fossey, Gorillas in the Mist, chs. 1-3
- December 4 Studying Animals: Documentary Film
 Gregg Mitman, Reel Nature, prologue, chs. 1 and 8, epilogue
 View David Attenborough, The Life of Mammals (selections)
 Jack Handey, "My Nature Documentary"
- December 11 Paper presentations

Things to Remember

Written assignments should represent original and individual work. For a detailed discussion of what this means, see the "Academic Integrity at MIT" handbook, available online at: <http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/>

Assignments are to be handed in on time. If an extension becomes necessary it should be requested ahead of the due date. Otherwise, lateness will be penalized.

Attendance is important. Not all the material to be covered in class is included in the readings. Be sure to bring your copy of the readings to discussion classes.

Grading will be based on the three written assignments, the oral presentation, and class participation (including informal reflections), weighted as follows: research paper 1/2; oral presentation--1/6; class participation (including informal response papers)--1/3.