

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.909 People and Other Animals  
Fall 2005

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

**21H.909**  
**PEOPLE AND OTHER ANIMALS**  
**Fall 2008**

Prof. H. Ritvo

T 11-1

**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.

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 9  | Introduction                                                                                                                                                                    |
| September 16 | Documentary film screening.                                                                                                                                                     |
| September 23 | Hunting<br>AE, ch 6<br>Jim Corbett, <u>Man-Eaters of Kumaon</u> , introduction, ch. 1<br>George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant"<br>Colonial Animal Protection Laws               |
| September 30 | Domestication and Breeding<br>AE, ch.1<br>Juliet Clutton-Brock, <u>Natural History of Domesticated Mammals</u> , pp. 9-112<br>Sarah Franklin, <u>Dolly Mixtures</u> , chs. 2-3  |
| October 7    | Meat (or not)<br>Harriet Ritvo, <u>The Platypus and the Mermaid</u> , ch. 5<br>Noelie Vialles, <u>Animal to Edible</u><br>Research paper proposal due                           |
| October 14   | Pets<br>AE, ch. 2<br>Vicki Hearne, <u>Adam's Task</u> , chs 2-4, 8-10<br>Konrad Lorenz, <u>Man Meets Dog</u> , chs. 4,6,17                                                      |
| October 21   | Animal Exploitation and Animal Protection<br>AE, ch 3<br>Anna Sewell, <u>Black Beauty</u><br>Anita Guerrini, <u>Experimenting with Humans and Animals</u> , chs.4-6, conclusion |
| October 28   | Animals and Infection<br>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)
- Research paper annotated bibliography due
- November 4      Live Animals on Display  
 AE Chapter 5  
 John Berger, "Why Look at Animals?"  
 Nigel Rothfels, "Gardens of History" (Savages and Beasts, ch. 1)  
 Jane Carruthers, "Wilding the farm or farming the wild? The evolution of Scientific game ranching in South Africa from the 1960s to the present," Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa, 2008  
 Etienne Benson, "Camera Traps," slate.com
- November 11      NO CLASS: VETERAN'S DAY
- November 18      Dead Animals on Display  
 AE, Introduction  
 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 25      Studying Animals: Field Observation, Experimentation and Imagination  
 H. G. Wells, The Island of Dr. Moreau
- December 2      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 9      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.