

21H.909/21H.969/21A.390/21A.835
PEOPLE AND OTHER ANIMALS
Fall 2010

Prof. H. Ritvo

T 10-12

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 bookstore and from various online vendors:

Karel Capek, War with the Newts (Catbird Press)
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 on October 5, November 2, and December 7, respectively. 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 2 and a 15-minute presentation on December 7.

Schedule of Classes

- September 14 **Introduction**
- September 21 **Hunting**
AE, ch 6
Jim Corbett, Man-Eaters of Kumaon, introduction, ch. 1
George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant"
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
Mark Cioc, The Game of Conservation, Introduction, ch. 1, appendix A
Colonial Animal Protection Laws
- September 28 **Domestication and Breeding**
AE, ch.1
Barbara Orlans, "Turbo-Cows: Producing a Competitive Animal in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries," Industrializing Organisms, pp.167-189
Stephen Pemberton, "Canine Technologies, Model Patients: The Historical Production of Hemophiliac Dogs," Industrializing Organisms, pp.191-213
Sarah Franklin, Dolly Mixtures, chs. 2-3
- October 5 **Meat (or not)**
Harriet Ritvo, The Platypus and the Mermaid, ch. 5
Noelie Vialles, Animal to Edible
Research paper proposal due
- October 12 **Pets**
AE, ch. 2
Vicki Hearne, Adam's Task, chs 2-4, 8-10
Konrad Lorenz, Man Meets Dog, chs. 4,6,17
- To be scheduled: Field trip to Kendall Cinema to see My Dog Tulip
- October 19 **Animal Exploitation and Animal Protection**

AE, ch 3
Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
Anita Guerrini, Experimenting with Humans and Animals, chs.4-6,
Conclusion

October 26

Animals, Environment, and the Columbian Exchange

William Cronon, Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England, chs.2 and 5 .
Virginia DeJohn Anderson, Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America, ch. 4.
Harriet Ritvo, "Counting Sheep in the English Lake District: Rare Breeds, Local Knowledge, and Environmental History," in Beastly Natures: Animals, Humans, and the Study of History, pp. 264-279.
John R. McNeill, "Revolutionary Mosquitoes of the Atlantic World : Malaria and Independence in the United States of America," in, Natures Past: The Environment and Human History, 145-171.

November 2

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
Robin A. Weiss, "Animal Origins of Human Infectious Disease," Philosophical Transactions: Biological Sciences, Vol. 356, (2001), pp. 957-977

Research paper annotated bibliography due
Oral progress report due

November 9

Live Animals on Display

AE Chapter 5
Nigel Rothfels, "Gardens of History" (Savages and Beasts, ch. 1)
Ian Miller, "The Great Zoo Massacre"
Etienne Benson, "Camera Traps," slate.com

November 16

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
Field trip to Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology

November 23

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

November 20

Animals and Imagination

H. G. Wells, The Island of Dr. Moreau and/or
Karel Capek, War with the Newts

December 7

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 class.

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.

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

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