

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 2005
TR 2:30-4

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, worship of animal gods, 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, including: <http://www.booktrak.com/>

Anita Guerrini, Experimenting with Humans and Animals (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003). ISBN: 0801871972.

Vicki Hearne, Adam's Task (New York, NY: Knopf, 1986). ISBN: 0394542142.

Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065.

Anna Sewell, Black Beauty (New York, NY: Signet, 2002). ISBN: 0451528654. A version of Black Beauty (link Black Beauty to <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/271>) may be downloaded from Project Gutenberg.

Noelie Vialles, Animal to Edible (Cambridge, UK, New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1994). ISBN: 0521466725.

H. G. Wells, The Island of Doctor Moreau (New York, NY: Signet, 1977). ISBN: 0451521919.

A version of The Island of Doctor Moreau (link The Island of Doctor Moreau to <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/159>) may be downloaded from Project Gutenberg.

Other readings can be accessed via the class website.

Written Assignments

There will be four 5 to 6-page papers, due in class on September 22, October 20, November 10, and December 13.

Schedule of Classes

September 8 Introduction: Animals and Us

September 13-15 The Hunt

Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, ch 6

Jim Corbett, Man-Eaters of Kumaon, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; Reprint edition (June 17, 1993). ISBN: 0195622553. introduction, ch. 1

George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant": In Shooting an Elephant: And Other Essays. East Sussex, UK: Gardners, 2003. ISBN: 0141187395. A version of Shooting an Elephant is also available online. (Link title to: http://orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e_eleph)

Issue: Endangered Species--Whale conservation

Sidney J. Holt, Loopholes exploited in whaling regulation. Nature 393, 206 (21 May 1998)

Dana Bisbee, Local Researchers are Ready to Embark on Whale of an Odyssey

Source: "Local Researchers are Ready to Embark on Whale of an Odyssey" The Boston Herald. August 2, 1999.

Kate Jaimet, Canada, U.S. Race Against Time to Save Right Whales
Source: The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec); January 2, 2001.

Charlotte Westney, Whaling Commission Votes for Conservation. Nature; 17 June, 2003 (Link title to:

http://www.nature.com/news/2003/030616/pf/030616-4_pf.html)

Guy Gugliotta, Whales May Have Been More Plentiful; Study Upends Historic Population Estimate. The Washington Post, July 25, 2003 Friday, Final Edition.

Peter Alford, Whales Off the Menu "Whales Off the Menu," The Australian, June 22, 2005. Page 13.

David Cyranoski, Japan's Whaling Bid Frustrated. "Japan's Whaling Bid Frustrated," Nature; 24 June 2005. (Link title to:

<http://www.nature.com/news/2005/050620/full/050620-16.html>)

Ingmar Egede, Inuit Makes Case for Whaling. The Nelson Mail (New Zealand), June 27, 2000; pg 9.

New Zealand Press Association, Slaughtered Whales 200yr Old. The Evening Post (Wellington), November 18, 2000; pg 9.

September 20-22

Domestication and Breeding

Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, ch.1

Juliet Clutton-Brock, A Natural History of Domesticated Mammals, Cambridge, U.K; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1999. ISBN: 0521632471. pp. 9-112

PAPER 1 DUE 9/22

September 27-29

Meat

Harriet Ritvo, The Platypus and the Mermaid, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997. ISBN: 0674673581. ch. 5

Noelie Vialles, Animal to Edible (Cambridge, UK, New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1994). ISBN: 0521466725.

Issue: Vegetarianism

Corliss, Richard; et al, Should We All Be Vegetarians? Time, 7/15/2002, Vol. 160, Issue 3, p48.

Oliver Loten, When We Eat, Something Else Must Die. The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec); June 1, 2003, Sunday Final Edition.

Matthew Fort, Food & Drink: What, No Meat? The Guardian (London); May 20, 1995; pg TT46.

David Lethbridge, Great Chasm Separates Humans From Animal World. The Gazette (Montreal), September 13, 2004; pg. A28.

Natasha Walter, The Unbearable Smugness of Being Vegetarian. The Guardian (London), March 28, 1996; pg. 19.

Tony Allen-Mills, Sexy Vixens Use Flesh to Sell Veganism to Meat-Mad Americans. The Australian, August 8, 2005; pg 14.

October 4-6

Animal Exploitation and Animal Protection

Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, ch 3

Anna Sewell, Black Beauty (New York, NY: Signet, 2002). ISBN: 0451528654. A version of Black Beauty (link Black Beauty to <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/271>) may be downloaded from Project Gutenberg.

Issue: Fox-hunting in Britain

Times Newspapers Limited, A Centuries-Old Tradition; Hunting. The Times (London), 18 November 2004.

Sterndale, et al, The Kill Without the Chase. The Times, 1 November 2004; Features.

Magnus Linklater, Survival of the Slowest and Weakest. The Times, 11 September 2004.

Tom Baldwin, Folly of stirring Mr. Blair will hound the pro-hunt marchers. The Times, 8 September 2004.

Valerie Elliott and Stewart Tendler, Police Chiefs 'Dread' Enforcing Ban. The Times, 3 July 2003.

Robin Page, My Friend the Fox. Daily Mail, 19 February 2005.

Express Newspapers., Charles's Hunt Hint. The Express, 12 December 2003.

Keith Perry and Wayne Francis, Anti-hunt Threat to Charles. The Daily Express on Sunday, 26 September 2004.

- October 11 NO CLASS
- October 13 View Noonan, Chris. Babe, 1995. (Link title to <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112431/> for the reading list, not the calendar. For the calendar just list as – View Babe, 1995.)
- October 18-20 **Vivisection and Antivivisection**
 Anita Guerrini, Experimenting with Humans and Animals (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003). ISBN: 0801871972, chs.4-6, conclusion
 MIT Committee on Animal Care: (Link title to: <https://web.mit.edu/comp-med/Restrict/CAC/index.html>)

PAPER 2 DUE 10/22

- October 25-27 **Animals and Infection**
 Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, ch 4
 Ritvo, Harriet: "Mad cow mysteries," American Scholar (67:2) Spring 1998, 113-122.
 British Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (BSE): (Link title to: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html>)
 US Department of Agriculture (BSE): (Link title to: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/BSE/>)

- November 1-3 **Pets**
 Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, ch. 2
 Vicki Hearne, Adam's Task (New York, NY: Knopf, 1986). ISBN: 0394542142, chs 2-4, 8-10
 Konrad Lorenz, Man Meets Dog, Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1955 chs. 4,6,17 (no isbn available)
 View Guest, Christopher, Best in Show, 2000. (Link title to: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0218839/>)

- November 8-10 **Zoos and Menageries**
 Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, ch.5
 Susan Davis, Spectacular Nature, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997. ISBN: 0520209818. introduction, ch. 6, conclusion

PAPER 3 DUE 11/10

- November 15-17 **Studying Animals: Naturalists and Museums**

Harriet Ritvo, The Animal Estate (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987). ISBN: 0674037065, 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.

Issue: How human are animals?

Melanie Reid, Parlez-vous Dog? Or Cow?; Do animals have the same kind of brains as autistic people? The Herald (Glasgow), June 11, 2005; pg. 5.

Associated Press, Chimps to have retirement home in U.S. CNN.com Dec. 26, 2003.

Benjamin Mee, Animal Rights: The Next Wave. The Weekend Australian, August 5, 2000; pg R01.

James Gorman, Are Animals Smarter Than We Think? The New York Times, November 11, 2003; Section F, pg 10.

Michael Hanlon, Could Apes Really Rule the World - Why we still feel uncomfortable around our relatives. Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia), August 5, 2001; pg 28.

Richard Saltus., Finding in Chimp Brain Renews Language Debate. The Boston Globe, February 9, 1998; pg D1.

November 22

Studying Animals: Field Observation, Experimentation and Imagination

H. G. Wells, The Island of Doctor Moreau (New York, NY: Signet, 1977). ISBN: 0451521919. A version of The Island of Doctor Moreau (link The Island of Doctor Moreau to <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/159>) may be downloaded from Project Gutenberg.

November 24

NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING

November 29-
December 1

Studying Animals: Field Observation and Ethology

Jane Goodall, In the Shadow of Man, Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1971. ISBN: 0395127262. chs. 1-3

Sara Hrdy, The Woman That Never Evolved, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981. ISBN: 0674955404. ch. 1

Biruté Galdikas, Reflections of Eden, Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1995. ISBN: 0316301817. chs. 1-4

Dian Fossey, Gorillas in the Mist, Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. ISBN: 061808360X. chs. 1-3

December 6-8

Studying Animals: Documentary Film

Gregg Mitman, Reel Nature, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999. ISBN: 0674715713. prologue, chs. 1 and 8, epilogue

View Attenborough, David [The Life of Mammals](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0364174/), 2002 (selections) (Link title to: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0364174/>)

December 13

Last class; discussion of documentary papers

PAPER 4 DUE

Things to Remember

Written assignments should represent original and individual work.

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: paper 1--1/6; paper 2--1/6; paper 3--1/3; oral presentation--1/6; class participation--1/6.