



Topics in Animal Studies: Keeping Animals¹

ANST-UA 600 - Spring 2017

We interact with nonhuman animals in a great variety of ways, including many captive settings. We live with animals, share space with them, exert control upon them, and keep them in many different sorts of places and contexts, from our houses to circuses, from zoos to wildlife reserves, from farms to labs, from streets to parks. These relationships range from domestication, use, control or defense to peaceful coexistence, protection, companionship or friendship. The course aims to investigate the intricacies of these many ways of *keeping animals* both from empirical and ethical standpoints, and the underlying ethics of captivity (of both humans and nonhumans). The materials draw from social and natural sciences, arts and humanities, and philosophy.

Time: W 5:-7:30pm – **Place:**

Instructor: Nicolas Delon

Email: nd746@nyu.edu

Office: 285 Mercer, 10th floor, #1006

Office hours: Make an appointment here: goo.gl/0tl38l

The required textbook for this class is **Lori Gruen, *The Ethics of Captivity***, Oxford University Press, 2014. Available at the NYU Bookstore, in the course reserve at Bobst, and **ONLINE** via NYU libraries. Further readings will be made available online during the semester.

Grading

The course is meant to foster careful reading and analysis of both empirical and philosophical subjects, drawing from the resources, concepts and methods of many disciplines. You will be assessed on the basis of your demonstrated capacity to engage with arguments, verify

¹ **IMPORTANT:** syllabus is subject to change without notice before the beginning of the semester. Please check for updated versions on NYU Classes.

assertions, research facts, unpack implicit assumptions, and critically examine your own views. These skills can only be achieved with your collaboration, including active participation and timely submission of assignments. The grading criteria are: structure, organization and coherence; grasp and use of references and course materials; critical skills; clarity in writing.

- **Tests** (50%): 2 quizzes (multiple-choice questions) (25% total) and 1 exam (short essay questions) (25%). Tests cover all course materials up until test day. No finals.
- **Group project** (25%): oral presentation (10%) and an 8-page paper (plus references) presenting the project and your own contribution to it (15% due **TBA** by email). Projects will be assigned early in the semester. We will discuss the projects, requirements and presentations in class. Presentations will take place on the same date.
- **Responses** (10%): each student will closely analyze the readings scheduled for one class and post a 2-page outline and response (including questions) on NYU Classes at least 24h before class; other students are required to post brief responses online.
- **Public events** (5%): You are expected to attend the public event below and email me a 2-page analysis, relating it to course materials: [TBA].
- **Attendance and participation** (10%): Missing more than one class without permission will negatively impact your grade (email me in advance and bring a note to class). Active participation is required (weekly discussion on NYU Classes forum and class participation).

Policies

- **Laptops** use is discouraged and tolerated only for note taking. They will be banned for everyone if they cause any distraction. **Cell phones** must be on silent and left in your bag.
- If you need **special accommodations regarding attendance and assignments**, I am happy to oblige but please let me know in advance.
- **Disability Disclosure Statement**

Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should please register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at [212-998-4980](tel:212-998-4980).

*NYU's Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities
726 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003-6675*

Telephone: [212-998-4980](tel:212-998-4980) - Voice/TTY Fax: [212-995-4114](tel:212-995-4114) - Web site: <http://www.nyu.edu/csd>

- **Plagiarism** and other forms of academic dishonesty will be checked for and may result in failure for the class and referral to an academic dean. They include: copying fragments from any source without quotes or references; not citing every source used in your papers; citing internet information without proper citation; presenting someone else's work as your own; or copying verbatim from any source. See NYU CAS policy on Academic Integrity: <http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity>.

- **Late Papers/Extensions:** Out of fairness to other students, extensions are only granted in exceptional circumstances **and** if requested **at least a week in advance**. Otherwise late papers will lose 10 grade points (/100) per day.

Provisional weekly schedule

All readings are mandatory and available on NYU Classes, online via NYU libraries or in the textbook.

Introduction

Serpell, 'Of pigs and pets'

Domestication

DeMello, 'The domestication of animals'
Ingold, 'From trust to domination'

The ethics of captivity

DeGrazia, 'The moral status of animals';
'The harms of confinement, suffering and death'
Textbook, chapter 10
Gruen, 'Dilemmas of captivity'

Zoos and entertainment

Textbook, chapter 14
Jamieson, 'Against Zoos'
Grazian, *American Zoo* (selections)
Braverman, *Zooland* (selections)

Law & Policy (w/ TBA)

QUIZ 1

Wolfson & Sullivan, 'Foxes in the hen house'
Singer & Mason, Introduction to *The Ethics of What We Eat*

Farming (w/ Humane League)

DeGrazia, 'Meat eating'
Gruen, 'Eating animals'
Pollan, 'The ethics of eating meat'

EXAM and movie discussion

*** Spring break ***

Sanctuaries (w/ TBA)

Textbook, chapters 6 and 13
Donaldson & Kymlicka, 'Farmed animal sanctuaries: The heart of the movement'

Legal personhood (w/ TBA)

Wise, 'One step at a time'
Textbook, chapter 2

Companion animals – QUIZ 2

Serpell, 'Pet keeping and animal domestication'
Textbook, chapters 1 and 9
Herzog, 'Pet-o-philia'

Laboratories (w/ TBA)

Textbook, chapter 11
Herzog, 'The moral status of mice'

Animals in sports (w/ Brendan Parent)

Readings TBA

Urban animals

Jerolmack, *The Global Pigeon* (selections)
Angelo & Jerolmack, 'Nature's looking-glass'
Donaldson & Kymlicka, *Zoopolis* (selections)

Group presentations