Humans and Animals

Class Objectives:
Humans and Animals examines the complex and multiple relationship that people have with animals using the lens of anthropology. Throughout human history we have developed social, economic, and symbolic connections with animals. In addition to insights from cultural anthropology, archaeology, and biological anthropology, this course draws on research from multiple other disciplines to explore our unique interdependences with other animals.

Required Texts and Readings
Hurn, Samantha

pdf files of assigned readings are available at the class Canvas elearning site.

**** IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING READINGS: Many of the assigned readings are from professional anthropology journals. You need to read the articles for general themes and concepts. These are NOT articles to read and highlight for simple facts. If you do not know a term – google it. If you don’t know the geographic region – google it. If the article discusses an animal that you don’t know – look it up. Come to class with questions and thoughts regarding the readings. We will discuss the readings in class. I will call on students to provide some thoughts on the readings – for example:
what were the main themes
how did the reading relate to the weekly topic
what anthropological concepts did the article address (take notes on terms you do not know or understand)
Recognize that different authors have different views and perspectives.
You will need to incorporate specific examples from the readings into your exam essays. I suggest you read the articles and take notes.

Class Requirements

**Mid-Term exam - take home**  
Due date: October 30  
20 %

**Final exam – take home**  
Due date: December 11  
20 %

4 short (~500 words) written assignments (due at start of class)  
Due dates: Sept. 6, October 4, Oct 18, Nov. 15  
20 % (5% each)

**Final Project – 8-10 page paper (20% paper/10% presentation)**  
Anthropology of Animals – Ethnography or Research paper  
Due date paper: Dec. 6, see syllabus for presentation dates  
30 %

Class Participation, in class discussion, and attendance  
10 %

**Extra credit** – you have the option to complete 3 extra credit assignments (2% of final grade) - TBA
(3 unexcused absences are allowed; please provide documentation for official UF business absences - e.g., band, sports, interviews - prior to the absence. For absences beyond 3, your attendance grade is reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade for each absence).

CEL PHONES TO OFF/NO TEXTING IN CLASS. If you use a computer for note taking and are observed viewing other media, you will be asked to leave the class.

Please use proper etiquette when emailing me. Please email me directly rather than posting to Canvas.

Grading scale:

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93.99
- B+ = 88-89.99
- B = 82-87.99
- B- = 80-81.99
- C+ = 78-79.99
- C = 72-77.00
- C- = 70-71.99
- D+ = 68-69.99
- D = 62-67.99
- D- = 60-61.99
- E = <60

C- grade will not count for major, minor, or general education credit.

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS OR MAKEUP EXAMS SCHEDULED WITHOUT A WRITTEN MEDICAL EXCUSE OR EXCUSE RELATED TO OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY BUSINESS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE.

DO NOT EMAIL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS TO ME. Please upload your assignments to Canvas and bring a printed copy to class. All assignments are due at the start of class and will not be accepted otherwise.

PLAGARISIM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU PLAGARIZE SOURCES, I WILL FILE AN FORMAL GRIEVANCE WITH THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE FOR JUDICIAL AFFAIRS AND IT WILL BECOME PART OF YOUR PERMANENT RECORD. YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT.

The UF Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

For all work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Students with Disabilities:
The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Please register with the Dean of Student’s office if you require assistance. They will provide you with documentation to present to your professor.

www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ If you need accommodation, please register in the first two weeks of class.

UF Counseling Services
Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. Reading & Writing Center, Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation
COURSE OUTLINE AND TOPICS

Week 1  August 21, 23
Course Introduction
Introduction to Humans and Animals, Anthrozoology

Readings:
Hurn – Chapters 1 and 3

Mirrors and Windows: Sociocultural Studies of Human-Animal Relationships, Molly H. Mullin,


Week 2  August 28, 30
Humans vs. Others
History of anthropological approaches to culture and nature
Are humans apart from or a part of nature?
Monstrous humans, taxidermy
Taxonomy - How we organize the animal world
Written Assignment #1 (animal categories) distributed on August 30, due Sept 6

Readings:
Hurn – Chapters 2 and 4

Social Construction of Animals in In Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal
Studies by Margo DeMello (2012)

The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography Cultural Anthropology 25 (4): 545–76 by Kirksey, S.
Eben, and Stefan Helmreich (2010)

Classifying Zoo Animals, In Zooland:The Institution of Captivity by Irus Braverman, Stanford
Press (2012)

Week 3  September 4 (Labor Day Holiday), September 6
Written Assignment 1 due Wednesday, Sept 6
Human evolution and animals

Readings:
Hurn – Chapter 11

The Animal Connection and Human Evolution, Pat Shipman et al. READ all Comments (Current
Anthropology 2010, 51 (4): 519–38)

Week 4  September 11-13
Domestication, wild, tended, and domesticated animals

Readings:
Hurn – Chapter 5
The Domestication of Animals In *Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies* by Margo DeMello (2012)


**Week 5  September 18, 20**

Economic animals and animals of utility
Pastoralists, herding

**Readings:**


Tripcevich llama caravans – we will view in class

**Week 6  September 25, 27**

Animism, symbolism, totemism

**Written Assignment #2 (animal symbolism) distributed on Sept 27**

**Readings:**

Hurns – Chapter 6, 9 and 10

*Animals in Human Thought and Animals in Religion and Folklore In Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies* by Margo DeMello (2012)


Week 7  
October 2, 4
Animal Symbolism cont.
Guest lectures
Written Assignment #2 due on Oct. 4

Readings:

Week 8  
October 9, 11
Food animals and taboos
Written Assignment #3 (taboo animals) distributed on October 11

Readings:
Hurn – Chapter 7


Read online article: http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/05/08/exploitation-and-abuse-at-the-chicken-plant

Week 9  
October 16, 18
Pets, companion animals
Written Assignment #3 due on Wednesday, October 18

Readings:
Hurn – Chapter 8

Read web article and view photos:


Week 10  
October 23, 25  
MIDTERM EXAM – distributed on Monday, October 23  
Due Monday, October 30 at start of class  

Animals as commodities for status and identity  
Exotic animal imports  

Readings:  
I will provide summaries of how anthropologist define commodities and value.  


18 Tigers, 17 Lions, 8 Bears, 3 Cougars, 2 Wolves, 1 Baboon, 1 Macaque, and 1 Man Dead in Ohio, by Chris Heath, *GQ Magazine*, March (2012) read online:  

*Which Exotic Species are Really Scary?* by David Steen, Slate (2014) read online:  
http://www.slate.com/blogs/wild_things/2014/01/06/worst_invasive_reptiles_florida_s_exotic_pythons_anacondas_monitors_tegus.html  

Through Cage Bars, an Exotic Peek Into Drug Wars, by Simon Romero, NY Times (2010) read online:  

Week 11  
October 30, November 1  
MIDTERM EXAM – due Monday, October 30 at start of class  

Animals as performance, humans as performance  
Animal fighting, animals on display  

Readings:  
Hurn – Chapter 14  


**Week 12  November 6, 8**

Animal tourism and conservation

**Written Assignment (animal tourism or animal rights) #4 distributed on November 8**

**Readings:**

- Hurn – Chapter 13


**Week 13  November 13, 15**

**Written Assignment #4 due on Wednesday, Nov. 15**

Animal rights, science, medicine and experimentation

**Readings:**

- Hurn – Chapters 12 and 15


**Week 14  November 20, November 22 (no class – Thanksgiving Holiday)**

The future of anthropology and human-animal studies, climate change, change cultures

**Readings:**

- Hurn – Chapter 16


Week 15  November 27, 29
Student presentations

Week 16  December 4, December 6 (last class)
Student Presentations

Final project paper is due on December 6 at start of class.

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM – DISTRIBUTED LAST DAY OF CLASSES
DUE on Monday, December 11, 5 PM – please upload to Canvas