

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code, Number, and Title:

SOCI 1123: Animals and Society

Course Format:

[Course format may vary by instructor. The typical course format would be:]

Lecture 3 h + Seminar 1 h + Lab 0 h

Credits: 3

Transfer credit: For information, visit bctransferguide.ca

Course Description, Prerequisites, Corequisites:

This course is an introduction to human-animal relations. It focuses on the impact that non-human animals have had on human societies and the impact that humans have had on the lives of animals. Topics may include the social construction of animals; the human domestication of animals; animal issues in politics and law; the role of animals in science, commerce, and sport; companion animals; and animal cruelty and abuse.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key thinkers, concepts, processes and theories associated with: the history of human-animal sociology, the social construction of animals, animals as workers/performers/educators, the plight of performing animals, the human-pet relationship, the sociology of vet medicine, animal sheltering and animal research, and sociological notions of animal selfhood.
- Describe key concepts, processes and theories that pertain to: the history of human-animal sociology, the social construction of animals, animals as workers/performers/educators, the plight of performing animals, the human-pet relationship, the sociology of vet medicine, animal sheltering and animal research, and sociological notions of animal selfhood.
- Analyze issues that pertain to: the history of human-animal sociology, the social construction of animals, animals as workers/performers/educators, the plight of performing animals, the human-pet relationship, the sociology of vet medicine, animal sheltering and animal research, and sociological notions of animal selfhood.
- Critically assess different sociological approaches to understanding: the history of human animal sociology, the social construction of animals, animals as workers/performers/educators, the plight

of performing animals, the human-pet relationship, the sociology of vet medicine, animal sheltering and animal research, and sociological notions of animal selfhood

Instructor(s): TBA

Office: TBA Phone: 604 323 XXXX Email: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Textbook and Course Materials:

[Textbook selection may vary by instructor. An example of texts and course materials for this course might be:]

For textbook information, visit https://mycampusstore.langara.bc.ca/buy_courselisting.asp?selTerm=3|8

Note: This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.

Assessments and Weighting:

Final Exam 35%

Other Assessments %

(An example of other assessments might be:) %

Midterm Exams: 2x20%

Project: 20%

Other (mini presentation): 5%

Number and variety of writing assignments: One written assignment, which involves a critical analysis of some aspect of human-animal relations.

Proportion of individual and group work:

Individual: 95%

Group: 5%

Grading System: Letter grade

Specific grading schemes will be detailed in each course section outline.

This generic outline is for planning purposes only.

Topics Covered:

[Topics covered may vary by instructor. An example of topics covered might be:]

INTRODUCTION

- Examination of how interest in non-human animals has developed in the social sciences.
- Overview of how the human-animal relationship is studied in the social sciences.
- Consideration of the intellectual benefits of examining the role of animals from a social and cultural (as opposed to a purely biological) standpoint.
- An historical overview of the animal-human bond.

THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

- Conceptual and theoretical consideration of the term 'social construction'.
- Examination of some of the ways in which humans have conceived of animals at different times and in different cultures.
- Overview of the genesis of the modern scientific ('binomial') system as it contrasts with a range of other animal taxonomies, some including humans, others not.

THE MORAL STANDING OF ANIMALS

- Conceptual and theoretical consideration of the term 'morality'.
- Focus on the moral status of non-human animals.
- Chart the appearance of the concept of 'animal rights' historically.
- Consideration of the grounds upon which animals are granted or denied moral status.
- The case of laboratory and experimental animals will be examined in particular.

ANIMALS, HUMANS AND SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

- Conceptual and theoretical consideration of the term 'symbolic interaction'.
- Consideration of both animal-human and animal-animal interaction as symbolic interaction.
- An examination of ethnographic research on: human-feline and human-canine symbolic interaction.
- An examination of ethnographic research on: feline-feline symbolic interaction (the social world of a cat shelter).

DOMESTICATION

- Consideration of what is meant by the term 'domestication'.
- Examination of the social processes by which certain animal species become 'domesticated'.
- Focus on how the treatment and conceptualization of such animals have altered as human societies have changed.

ANIMALS AS WORKERS AND COMMODITIES

- Conceptual and theoretical consideration of the term 'commodity'.
- An examination of the role of animals in the economic institution.
- Special consideration will be given to the role of animals in the entertainment industry - as circus performers, display animals in zoos, and actors in movies and television documentaries.

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- Special consideration may also be given to the role of animals in the fashion industry.

WILD ANIMALS AND SPORT

- An examination of the role of wild animals in the construction of gender through sport (eg., hunting, fishing, trapping, cock-fighting, bullfighting).

THE ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF ANIMALS

- An examination of the connections between animal abuse/neglect and inter-human violence.

ANIMAL ISSUES IN HUMAN POLITICS AND LAW

- An examination of the role of animals in maintaining racism in Nazi Germany.
- An examination of historical and contemporary anti-cruelty laws.

SUMMARY AND REVIEW

As a student at Langara, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself and complying with the following policies:

College Policies:

[E1003 - Student Code of Conduct](#)

[F1004 - Code of Academic Conduct](#)

[E2008 - Academic Standing - Academic Probation and Academic Suspension](#)

[E2006 - Appeal of Final Grade](#)

[F1002 - Concerns about Instruction](#)

[E2011 - Withdrawal from Courses](#)

Departmental/Course Policies:

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