

SEMINAR: MEDIEVAL ANIMALS

CLEN G6028
Spring 2010
Thursdays 11:00-12:50
Call # 61530
612 Philosophy Hall

Prof. Susan Crane
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616 Philosophy Hall
hours: Tu 5:30-6:30, Th 2-3,
or by appointment

Course design: Each week's readings raise a number of questions, often intersecting and contradictory, about what other animals have meant to humans, what kinds of contact with them are valued and abhorred, what their symbolic and material uses have been, and how their consciousness has been imagined. Course requirements include active class participation, a research paper of 20-25 pages, a workshop presentation of the research project, and weekly posts to Courseworks on the assigned reading.

Course materials: Books available at the University Bookstore: Physiologus; Book of Beasts; Chrétien de Troyes, Yvain; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Other editions are also acceptable. Coursepack at Village Copier (Broadway at 112th) after January 21. Additional PDF readings posted on Courseworks are provided as background but are not required reading.

Jan. 21 Bestiary, "Cat"; Bartholomaeus Anglicus, "Weasel" and "Cat"; "The Scholar and His Cat (Pangur Ban)"; Wolfe, "Human, All Too Human"

[PDF: Grandin, "My Story"; Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?"]

Jan. 28 *Semiotics*: Genesis, Chapters 1-9; Augustine and Aquinas on Genesis and nature; Physiologus; Derrida, "The Animal That Therefore I Am"

[PDF: Sorabji, Animal Minds and Human Morals; Clark, "The Fathers and the Animals"; Introduction, Animal Philosophy]

Feb. 4 *Taxonomy and classification*: Ambrose, Hexameron; Pliny, Historia naturalis; Book of Beasts; Foucault, The Order of Things

[PDF: Muratova, "Bestiaries"; Cursor Mundi on animals and the Fall]
[Aberdeen Bestiary: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bestiary/>]

- Feb. 11 *Ethical relationships/environmental experiments: Life of Cuthbert; Beasts and Saints; Wholly Animals; Le Goff, “Wilderness in the Medieval West”; Jamieson, “Science, Knowledge, and Animal Minds”*
Dale Jamieson will visit this class:
<http://environment.as.nyu.edu/object/dalejamieson.html>
Open class at noon: “What do animals think? and why does it matter?”
- [PDF: Garrard, *Ecocriticism*; Levinas, “Name of a Dog” with Atterton, “Ethical Cynicism”; White, “Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis”]
- Feb. 18 *Subjugation: “Owl and the Nightingale” (for links see end of syllabus); Lydgate, “Debate of the Horse, Goose, and Sheep” and “Fifteen Tokens”; Pricke of Conscience, “Tokens”; Steel, “How to Make a Human”*
Karl Steel will visit this class:
http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/Faculty_Details5.jsp?faculty=675
Open class at noon: “Woofing and Weeping with Animals in the Last Days”
- [PDF: Wolfe, “Wittgenstein’s Lion”; Singer, “Animal Liberation at 30”]
- Feb. 25 *Metamorphosis: Ovid, Metamorphoses; Marie de France, Lais: “Bisclavret,” “Yonec”; Gerald of Wales, History and Topography of Ireland; Chevelere Assigne; Daston, “Intelligences”*
- [PDF: Agamben excerpts from Homo Sacer and The Open; Calarco, “Jamming the Anthropological Machine: Agamben”]
- Mar. 4 *Animal materiality: Exeter Book Riddles; Evans, Criminal Prosecution and Capital Punishment of Animals; Holsinger, “Of Pigs and Parchment”; Dinshaw, Introduction to Chaucer’s Sexual Poetics*
Bruce Holsinger will visit this class:
http://www.engl.virginia.edu/faculty/holsinger_bruce.shtml
- [PDF: Katz, “Dog Bites Man”; Cohen, “Rituals of Inclusion: Animals”]
- Mar. 11 *Anthropomorphism and Zoomorphism: Marie de France, Fables; Chaucer, Nun’s Priest’s Tale; Tyler, “If Horses Had Hands”; Derrida, The Beast and the Sovereign*
- [PDF: Coppinger, “Wolves Evolve into Dogs”; Trut, “Early Canid Domestication”; Kermode, “Why Are Narratives Obscure?”]

[SPRING BREAK]

- Mar. 25 *Animal partners and liminal human-animals*: Chrétien de Troyes, Ywain; Cohen, “Chevalerie”; Freedman, “Representation of Medieval Peasants”
- [PDF: Deleuze and Guattari, “Becoming-Animal” with Urpeth, “Animal Becomings”; Hediger, “The Clever Hans Phenomenon”]
- Apr. 1 *Hunting and wild nature*: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; Twiti, Art of Hunting; Edward of York, Master of Game; Rigby, “Ecocriticism”
- [PDF: Marvin, “Killing Animals”; Thiébaux, “Mouth of the Boar”; Howe, “Fox Hunting as Ritual”]
- Apr. 8 *Posthumanism?* Bevis of Hampton (for links see end of syllabus); Diamond, “Difficulty of Reality”; Wolfe, “Flesh and Finitude”
Cary Wolfe will visit this class: <http://www.carywolfe.com/>
Open class at noon: “Animal Studies, Biopolitics, and the Posthumanities”
- [PDF: Despret, “The Body We Care for”; Haraway, “Cyborg Manifesto”]
- Apr. 9 Cary Wolfe: “Propositions about Posthumanism”; Discussant: Lydia Liu
4:00, room TBA
- Apr. 15 *Communication and compassion*: Chaucer, Squire’s Tale; Augustine and Aquinas on killing and loving animals; Derrida, “Hostipitality”
- [PDF: Broadie and Pybus, “Kant’s Treatment of Animals”; James, “Phenomenology and the Problem of Animal Minds”]
- Apr. 22 Research paper workshop
- Apr. 23 MARC Spring Conference: Medieval Nature and its Others
19 University Place, Room 102, New York University
- Apr. 29 Research paper workshop

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE: FRIDAY, MAY 7, AT NOON

For ENCL sequential students in the MA year, this deadline must be met for MA certification and continued funding. For other students, short extensions are possible.

Basic reference works for medieval literary studies:

Middle English Dictionary:

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room, Dictionaries shelf, PE679.M54

Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church:

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room BR95.O8 1997

Atlas of Medieval Jewish History:

Butler Reference R 912 B35

Manual of the Writings in Middle English:

Butler Reference R 016.82 W46 1967

Dictionary of the Middle Ages:

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room D114.D5 1982

Butler Reference R940 D56

Bible concordances and encyclopedias:

Butler Stacks and Ancient/Medieval Reading Room: BS400 and following

Latin Vulgate Bible (the medieval Christian Bible):

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room BS75 1975

Douay-Rheims Bible (English translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible):

Ancient/Medieval Reading Room BS180. 1989

Websites for Medieval Studies:

Middle English Compendium (includes Middle English Dictionary):

Search CLIO by this title for access

International Medieval Bibliography:

Search CLIO by this title for access

MLA International Bibliography:

Search CLIO by this title for access

Medieval Bibles on the web:

Start at <http://www.awmach.org/web/home.htm>, choose Online Bibles, choose Vulgate (the medieval Latin Bible) and Douay-Rheims (English translation of the Vulgate)

Medieval literature and history:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/4224263.html>

<http://the-orb.net>

<http://www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>

<http://www.netserf.org/>

<http://www.msu.edu/~georgem1/history/medieval.htm>

Medieval text for February 18:

Owl and the Nightingale in Middle English:

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=cme;idno=OwIC>

Owl and the Nightingale in Modern English:

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wpwt/trans/owl/owltrans.htm>

Medieval text for April 8:

Romance of Sir Bevis of Hampton:

Introduction: <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/Teams/bevisint.htm>

Text: <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/Teams/bevisfrm.htm>