

This course will look at the new field of animal studies as it is explored in science fiction. Animal studies uses the wide interdisciplinary range of cultural studies to examine the relationship between human beings and other animals. Its concerns include philosophical, scientific, and cultural considerations. Science fiction is particularly well suited to explore the issues of animal studies and many of the concerns of animal studies feel quite science-fictional.

Readings for the first half of the course will be drawn primarily from *The Animal Studies Reader*, edited by Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald; an anthology-in-progress of relevant sf stories; and *The Mount* by Carol Emshwiller. The second half will include more extended theoretical readings and sf novels.

We will alternate theoretical readings from the reader with fiction, using the 6 sections of the reader in the order in which they are presented. The first readings are, week by week:

1. In *The Animal Studies Reader*, x-13. In addition, please bring in a photograph of an animal, and be prepared to answer the many questions on x-xi, speaking, as it were for the animals.
2. "Rachel in Love" by Pat Murphy. This can be found in *Daughters of Earth*, ed Larbalestier, 217-243, one of the texts for III Special 2 (Feminist sf). It is also available online at <http://www.brazenhussies.net/murphy/Rachel.html>
3. *Reader*, 14-36.

Assessment will be made through participation (40%), including discussion and evidence of having completed the reading; and a final extended essay. No more than 2 absences permitted. I will announce further required readings in a timely manner.

Schedule of Readings for Animal Studies and Science Fiction

- Oct. 9—In reader, x-13
- Oct. 16—"Rachel in Love" by Pat Murphy
- Oct. 23—In reader, 14-30
- Oct. 30—In reader, 31-37, and "Tuberculosis Bacteria Join U.N." by Joan Slonczewski
- Nov. 6—In reader, 55-103, and "Pelt" by Carol Emshwiller
- Nov. 13—"Desertion" by Clifford Simak, "People of Sand and Slag" by Paolo Bacigalupi
- Nov. 20—In reader 115-190
- Nov. 27—"Bloodchild" by Octavia Butler and "Saving Tiamaat" by Gwyneth Jones
- Dec. 4—In reader, 305-377
- Dec. 11—"Her Furry Face" by Leigh Kennedy, "Laws of Survival" by Nancy Kress, "Mazes" by Ursula Le Guin, "Specimens" by Jeff Noon
- Dec. 18—In reader 249-280
- Jan. 8—"Hunting Mother" by Sage Walker and "Evolution of Trickster Stories" by Kij Johnson
- Jan. 15—*The Mount* by Carol Emshwiller

Jan. 22—complete *The Mount*

Paper of 7-10 typed pages due during exam week (date to be given). It should analyze how several of the fiction readings for this course explore and develop certain ideas discussed in the theoretical readings. Of course, secondary sources are welcome, but thesis and writing should be original, and all quotations must be cited using MLA form. While I will be happy to give workable topics, you should also be thinking of ideas that you wish to explore and discuss how you might effectively develop them in a cogent paper, talk these ideas over with me in the course of the semester.

Readings for animal studies and science fiction second semester

Note: E indicates availability as Ebook

Olaf Stapledon, *Sirius* (Mar 5 and 12)

Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (Mar 19 and 26)

Sheri Tepper, *Grass* (Apr 2 and 16)

Octavia Butler, *Lilith's Brood (Dawn)* E (Apr 23 and 30)

Mary Doria Russell, *The Sparrow* (May 7 and 14)

Charles Wilson, *Blind Lake* (May 21 and 8)

Jonathan Latham, *Girl in Landscape* (May 8 and June 4)

Final papers due June 5—no late papers!