

Animality (PHIL 540)
TR 12:00 - 1:50, 353 PLC

Fall 2006
CRN: 17131

Instructor: Dr. Ted Toadvine
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Office: PLC 319, 346-5554
Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:00 MW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is an “animal,” and how are we to understand the relation between humans and other animals? This “question of the animal” has played a pivotal role for key continental thinkers over the last century, culminating in recent works that treat animality and the human/animal divide as constitutive of our ethical and political traditions, our relation with the natural world, and our “human” identity. To trace the historical development of these views, we will begin with the influential writings of ethologist Jakob von Uexküll and Gestalt theorist Wolfgang Köhler, followed by the phenomenological thinkers that they inspired – Max Scheler, Martin Heidegger, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. The second half of the course will examine the new investigations of animality by post-structuralist thinkers, taking as our exemplars works by Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, Jacques Derrida, Giorgio Agamben, Donna Haraway, and Luce Irigaray.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Wolfgang Köhler, *The Mentality of Apes*, trans. Ella Winter (W. W. Norton, 1976).
Max Scheler, *Man’s Place in Nature*, trans. Hans Meyerhoff (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1962).
Martin Heidegger, *The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics*, trans. William McNeil and Nicholas Walker (Indiana U. Press, 2001).
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Structure of Behavior*, trans. Alden Fisher (Duquesne U. Press, 1983).
Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*, trans. Brian Massumi (U. of Minnesota, 1987).
Giorgio Agamben, *The Open: Man and Animal*, trans. Kevin Attell (Stanford U. Press, 2004).
Donna Haraway, *The Companion Species Manifesto* (Prickly Paradigm Press, 2003).

Available through the library’s online reserves:

Jakob von Uexküll, “A Stroll Through the Worlds of Animals and Men,” in *Instinctive Behavior: The Development of a Modern Concept*, trans. and ed. Claire Schiller (New York: International Universities Press, Inc., 1957), 5-80.
Rainer Maria Rilke, “Eighth Duino Elegy,” in *Duino Elegies and the Sonnets to Orpheus*, trans. A. Poulin, Jr. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977), 54-59.
Jacques Derrida, “The Animal that Therefore I am (More to Follow),” trans. David Wills, *Critical Inquiry* 28 (Winter 2002): 369-418.
Jacques Derrida, “‘Eating Well,’ or the Calculation of the Subject,” trans. Peter Connor and Avital Ronell, in *Points . . . Interviews, 1974-1994*, ed. Elisabeth Weber (Stanford U. Press, 1995), 255-87.
Luce Irigaray, “Animal Compassion,” trans. Marilyn Gaddis Rose, in *Animal Philosophy: Ethics and Identity*, ed. Matthew Calarco and Peter Atterton (London: Continuum, 2004), 195-201.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. participation & attendance	10%
2. presentation of summary of secondary article	10%
3. term paper prospectus (7-8 pages)	20%
2. final term paper (14-16 pages)	60%

◦ **Class Participation/Attendance:** You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending the lectures, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating actively and productively in the class conversation. Missing three classes will result in a full grade reduction. An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the third. Three late arrivals for class will count

as one absence. The quality (not necessarily *quantity*) of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. In addition to any penalties that you receive for failure to attend class, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

◦ **Presentation of Secondary Article:** Each student will sign up to present a secondary article during a particular week of the class, and the other class members will also read these articles in advance. You will be expected to identify an article that you would like to present, which can be any peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter relevant to the theme of the readings for that week. Please get my approval of your selection in advance. Make a copy of your article available in the Philosophy Department library at least one week in advance of your class presentation. Class presentations will be strictly limited to 10 minutes, followed by 15-20 minutes of class discussion time. Your presentation and handling of discussion will be the basis for 10% of your final course grade.

◦ **Term Paper Prospectus:** You will submit, in the 8th week, a prospectus of your final paper with two components: (1) a 2-3 page detailed description of the topic and outline of your proposed argument; and (2) an annotated bibliography of five peer-reviewed secondary texts you intend to consult. Each annotation should be around one double-spaced page and include both a summary of the article and an explanation of its relevance for your project. Your prospectus must receive my approval in order for your final term paper to be accepted. The prospectus will be worth 20% of your final course grade.

◦ **Final Term Paper**

Final term papers of 14-16 pages will explore a specific independently-chosen topic or theme from the course in detail and must include (a) examination of at least five peer-reviewed secondary sources in addition to primary texts, and (b) the development of your own original position or critical response. Term papers must be stapled, double-spaced, proof-read, and use a standard system of citation (APA or Chicago). Papers are due on the date scheduled for the final exam, and extensions will be granted only in the case of genuine, documented emergencies. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Your term paper will count for 60% of your final course grade.

PLEASE NOTE

◦ **Inclement Weather:** It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If, however, it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Blackboard and through the Blackboard email system.

◦ **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Please review the university policy available at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm> for an explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty and how it will be dealt with in this course.

◦ **Disability Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability, please inform me as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

(*Specific assignments will be announced at the start of each class*).

Week 1 9/26, 9/28	Introduction to Course Uexküll, “A Stroll Through the Worlds of Animals and Men”
Week 2 10/3, 10/5	Köhler, <i>The Mentality of Apes</i> , Introduction; Chpts. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7; Conclusion
Week 3 10/10, 10/12	Scheler, <i>Man’s Place in Nature</i>

Week 4: 10/17, 10/19	Merleau-Ponty, <i>The Structure of Behavior</i> , 93-137, 145-184.
Week 5: 10/24, 10/26	Rilke, "Eighth Duino Elegy" Heidegger, <i>The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics</i> , 176-273
Week 6: 10/31, 11/2	Deleuze and Guattari, <i>A Thousand Plateaus</i> , 233-286
Week 7: 11/7, 11/9	Deleuze and Guattari, <i>A Thousand Plateaus</i> , 299-309, 311-350
Week 8: 11/14, 11/16	Derrida, "The Animal that Therefore I am (More to Follow)" Derrida, "'Eating Well,' or the Calculation of the Subject" Term Paper Prospectus Due
Week 9: 11/21 (11/23: holiday)	Agamben, <i>The Open: Man and Animal</i>
Week 10: 11/28, 11/30	Haraway, <i>The Companion Species Manifesto</i> Irigaray, "Animal Compassion"
Friday, 12/8	Final term paper due in Philosophy department office by 8:00 am