SOC 101 – 6 First-Year Seminar
ANIMALS AND SOCIETY: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN SPECIES
Fall quarter 2019

Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 3:20; Allison Residential Common 1021
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Peer Adviser: Olivia Stent oliviastent2022@u.northwestern.edu

This seminar explores the relationship between humans and non-human species from a sociological viewpoint. Topics include: the history of animal-human relations; the moral status of animals; how gender, class, and race-ethnicity impact our dealings with animals; zoos and shelters; the relationship between violence toward animals and toward people; animal rights movements; animal therapy; and the question of whether animals are part of society.

My office hours are by appointment, whenever time is convenient for both of us. Please set up appointments by e-mail and let me know what you want to discuss so I’ll be prepared. For quick questions you can always catch me right before or after class for consultations-in-the-hall.

Books for required reading: These have been ordered at Norton and are on reserve in the library


Expectations
- Regular, on-time attendance
- Active and prepared participation in class discussions
- Written work edited and turned in on time
- Communication with me about problems, new ideas, anything you want or need to discuss

Writing and oral presentation assignments
Students will write six short papers (from 1 paragraph to 6-7 pages). Students will deliver an oral report on their final papers. The fourth paper is collaborative, i.e., by teams of 2 or 3 students.

Evaluation
- Six short writing assignments: 60%
- Class participation, including oral presentation: 40%

WEEKS 1 – 3: HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN SPECIES

Week 1 What is an animal?
Tuesday, September 24
Important: All assignments, including this one, are to be completed before class. We will be discussing this reading in today’s class.

Thursday, September 26

**SUMMARY - First writing assignment:** Write one paragraph summing up Bruni’s argument. Due Tuesday

**Week 2. Do animals have moral status? Do humans have obligations?**

Tuesday, October 1

Thursday, October 3

**Week 3. Single species, multiple meanings**

Tuesday, October 8. **BLOCK MUSEUM MEETING**

Thursday, October 10
Assignment for today: Jerolmack, The Global Pigeon, Part 2, pp. 79 – 156.

**INTERPRETATION - Second writing assignment:** Write a three-page interpretation of the Block image you have chosen. Discuss the interaction that is depicted and the underlying assumptions about the human-animal relationship that the image suggests. Due Tuesday.

**WEEKS 4 – 6: SOCIOLOGICAL VARIABLES IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-HUMAN SPECIES**

**Week 4. Animals and poverty**

Tuesday, October 15
Assignment for today: Leslie Irvine, My Dog Always Eats First, Chs. 1- 4, pp. 1-86.

Before our Library visit: Formulate a research question for your final paper. This does not need to be written yet, but you should have it in mind when we go to the Library.

Thursday, October 17. **LIBRARY MEETING, B238, lower level**
Assignment for today: Leslie Irvine, My Dog Always Eats First, Chs. 5-8, pp. 87-172.

**RESEARCH QUESTION – Third writing assignment:** State the research question for your final paper. In no more than two pages, sketch what you will need to do in order to answer the question. Due Tuesday.
Week 5. Animals and gender

Tuesday, October 22


Thursday, October 24

OBSERVATION – Fourth writing assignment: Observe one or more human-animal interactions on the streets of Evanston. Give a detailed description of what you observe and discuss it in terms of our readings on gender. This paper is collaborative; you will work in teams of two or three students. Four pages, due Tuesday.

Week 6. Animals, oppression, race

Tuesday, October 29


Thursday, October 31
Assignment for today: Elijah Anderson, *Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community* Ch. 1 (pp. 7 – 55) and Ch. 8 (207 – 236).

DRAFT – Fifth writing assignment: Draft a five-page paper addressing your research question. Sometime during the next several weeks you will be going to The Writing Place to work on the final version. You will be working on this paper for the rest of the quarter.

WEEKS 7-9: INSTITUTIONS, MOVEMENTS, AND INTERACTIONS INVOLVING HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN SPECIES

Week 7 Are zoos for animals? For humans? For the planet?

Tuesday, November 5.

Thursday, November 7
At 2:30 Meaghan Considine will come to introduce The Writing Place. All students in the seminar must meet with a writing counselor at The Writing Place to work on turning their drafts into their final paper.
Week 8  Humans protecting animals


**Thursday, November 14** Deborah Rosenberg coming for Advising Visit
Assignment for today: DeMello, *Animals and Society*, Ch. 9, “Animals and Science,” pp. 170 – 193. Also today everyone will give a brief oral statement of their research question and where it stands.

Week 9  Animals protecting humans

**Tuesday, November 19**

**Thursday, November 21**
Assignment for today: **FINAL PAPER: The sixth writing assignment and it should be 6-7 pages in length, including references. Today ORAL PRESENTATIONS (1) of Final papers. Written papers due on Tuesday, though you may turn them in earlier.**

WEEK 10: ARE ANIMALS PART OF SOCIETY? WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO INCLUDE THEM?

**Tuesday, November 26**
Assignment for today: **ORAL PRESENTATIONS (2); FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY**

**Thursday, November 28** HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**Monday, December 2:** This week is WCAS Reading Period. I have arranged our schedule so that you will have already finished your work for our seminar; this week you can concentrate on your other classes that have final examinations. Of course I’ll be available to talk with you any time during that period even though we won’t be meeting as a class.