

University of Colorado Boulder
SOCY 4017
Animals and Society
Spring 2020
T/Th 11-12:15
MCOL W100

Professor Leslie Irvine
(She, her, hers)
leslie.irvine@colorado.edu
Office hours:
[Click to schedule](#)
Ketchum 311

Sarah Jaffe
(She, her, hers)
sarah.jaffe@colorado.edu
Office Hours:
M 11am-12pm; W 10-11am
[Alert me here](#)
Ekeley S264

Course overview

Animals matter for human existence in so many ways that it is hard to imagine the entity we call “society” without them. They figure heavily in our language, food, clothing, family structure, economy, education, entertainment, science, and recreation. This semester, we will cover a range of topics, many of them controversial. Although this is a sociology course, the field of animal studies is interdisciplinary. Although many of the readings come from areas other than sociology, we will always emphasize the connections of animals to broader sociological concepts such as race, gender, class, crime, and the environment.

Course goals

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

- Understand the social, cultural, and ethical consequences of the shifting roles and statuses of animals in society;
- Apply key perspectives and concepts in the field of human–animal studies to social issues involving animals;
- Analyze the construction of the boundaries drawn between humans and animals and identify their consequences.

Note

You are holding a paper syllabus, but this isn't actually the syllabus we'll use this semester. Instead, there is a course website on Canvas. That's where you'll find the full list of readings, the course schedule, and assignments. The paper syllabus introduces these topics. The online version, however, is the official version and the one I will keep up-to-date.

Course requirements

1. Complete all assigned reading by the dates listed on Canvas. All content is posted on Canvas. You are accountable for all content assigned even though we will not review each reading in detail during class. In some cases, we will discuss the material extensively, but more often, the reading will provide a platform for considering related issues.
2. Attend class regularly and contribute to the learning environment by participating in discussions and asking informed questions.
3. Complete the work required for the grade you want to earn according to the table that follows. You will find prompts, instructions, and scoring rubrics on Canvas.

Grading

This course uses points-free grading that works like this:

For a D (or an F) in the course, fail to meet the minimal requirements for a C, which demand only basic knowledge and comprehension of the material.

For a C, complete the Reading Quizzes and Assignments, which demonstrate basic knowledge and comprehension of the material.

For a B, fulfill all the requirements for a C, plus successfully complete the Critical Reflections that demonstrate application and analysis of the material.

For an A, fulfill all the requirements for a B, plus successfully complete additional work that demonstrates synthesis and evaluation of the material.

To earn this grade ↓	Reading Quizzes (8) 70% = Passing (Best of 2 attempts)	Assignments (3)	Critical Reflections (4)	Synthesis and Evaluation Essays (3)
A	Pass all 8	Complete all 3 to specifications	Complete all 4 to specifications	Complete all 3 to specifications
B	Pass all 8	Complete all 3 to specifications	Complete all 4 to specifications	N/A
C	Pass all 8	Complete all 3 to specifications	N/A	N/A
D	Pass all 8	N/A	N/A	N/A

Plus or minus grades

To earn a *plus* grade: Pass the Reading Quizzes for the desired letter, **plus** meet the standards for Assignments, Critical Reflections, or Synthesis and Evaluation Essays for the next level up.

Examples:

- A student who passes all 8 Quizzes and meets the specifications for 1 Assignment would earn a D+.
- A student who passes all 8 Quizzes, meets specifications for all 3 Assignments and 4 Critical Reflections AND completes 1 Synthesis and Evaluation Essay would earn a B+.

To earn a *minus* grade: Pass the Reading Quizzes for the desired letter and fail to meet the requirements for the next lower letter.

- A student who passes 8 Reading Quizzes and completes 3 Assignments and 4 Critical Reflections but completes only 2 Synthesis and Evaluation Essays would get an A-.

Tokens for Do-overs or extensions

How does this work? Each student automatically has two virtual “tokens” at the beginning of the semester. You can cash your tokens in for one of the following:

- A do-over on a **Critical Reflection**, an **Assignment**, or a **Synthesis and Evaluation Essay** that did not meet specifications. You must meet with Sarah or me if you want to revise your work, and you must submit on the designated “do-over days” (March 13 and May 5).
- A 24-hour extension for a **Critical Reflection**, an **Assignment**, or a **Synthesis and Evaluation Essay**. *You do not need permission for this. Just submit within 24-hours*

You can use your tokens for one of each of the above or use both for do-overs or extensions. You can use tokens **only** on Assignments, Critical Reflections, or Synthesis and Evaluation Essays (sorry, not for quizzes but you automatically get two attempts).

- *Grade-related matters*

If you become concerned about your grade in this course, see Sarah or me as soon as possible to discuss strategies for improvement. Don't wait until the end of the semester when we can't help you.

Make back-up copies of *all* your work. In the case of an incorrect or missing grade, it is your responsibility to provide graded work to request a change.

If you receive a grade that you consider incorrect or unfair, and you have discussed possibilities for using a token to revise, where applicable, please submit a one-page typed memo explaining why you believe the grade you received does not accurately reflect the quality of your work, given the requirements of the assignment. Submit this memo to me within one week of receiving the grade. You will receive a decision within a week of submitting the memo. Note that if you ask to have your work reevaluated, your new grade may be lower than the original grade.

Course policies

- *Absences and missed assignments*

You must keep current with the course. If you miss a class, first contact a classmate to catch up and get notes. Then arrange to see Sarah or me for clarification of the material if needed.

An absence counts as “excused” **only** in one of two ways:

1. If an event scheduled prior to the start of the semester (such as a religious observance, NCAA or Collegiate Sports Club meet, travel for a wedding, family reunion, or conference) will cause you to miss a class or a deadline, please notify me by **January 31**. We can discuss options for making up missed work individually. I will not consider make-up options for anyone who notifies me after this date.
2. If documentable medical, veterinary, or legal circumstances, such as illness, death of a family member, or a court date cause you to miss class, notify me by email at your earliest opportunity. Then, submit documentation in the class immediately following the one you missed. I will provide an alternate assignment or a new deadline.

You cannot make up work missed for reasons other than the two stated above.

Course schedule

RQ=Reading Quiz (on Canvas). Deadline to complete RQs is **10 AM** on the designated dates so that I can use them to assess students' grasp of material before class.

CR=Critical Reflection. Submit on Canvas by 11:59PM (Mountain Time)

A=Assignments. These are due on **Fridays** so that you have the benefit of the discussions in the previous day's class. Submit on Canvas by 11:59PM (Mountain Time). You can use a token for a 24-hour extension (submit by 11:59PM Saturday).

SEE=Synthesis and Evaluation Essays (only for students seeking A grades)

Beginnings

TUE JAN 14	Introduction to the course	
THU JAN 16	Introduction to Animal Studies	Practice quiz

Module 1: Animal, Self, and Society

Part 1: Thinking with Animals

TUE JAN 21	How and Why We Think with Animals	
THU JAN 23	Animals and Social Problems	CR1
TUE JAN 28	Animals and Racialization	RQ1
THU JAN 30	Animals and Cultural Representation	
FRI JAN 31		A1

Part 2: Close Relationships

TUE FEB 4	Pets and the Human-Animal Bond	
THU FEB 6	Pets as Friends and Family	RQ2
TUE FEB 11	"Doing" Gender with Pets	
THU FEB 13	Race/Ethnic Diversity and the Human- Animal Bond	CR2

Part 3: The Dark Side

TUE FEB 18	Considering Animal Abuse	RQ3
THU FEB 20	Entangled Victimization	
FRI FEB 21		SEE1

Part 4: Wild(life) Encounters

TUE FEB 25	Living with Wildlife	
THU FEB 27	Wildlife Tourism	
TUE MAR 3	Human/Wildlife Conflict	
THU MAR 5	Human-Insect Interactions	RQ4
FRI MAR 6		A2

Module 2: Animals in Institutions

Part 1: Science

TUE MAR 10	Animals in Laboratories	
------------	-------------------------	--

Part 2: Agriculture

THU MAR 15	The Animal Industrial Complex	RQ5
TUE MAR 17	To Eat or Not to Eat Animals?	

Part 3: Sport, Entertainment, and Education

THU MAR 19	The Meaning of Animal Sport	
FRI MAR 20		SEE2
TUE MAR 24	Spring break	
THU MAR 26	Spring break	
TUE MAR 31	Captivity	CR3

Part 4: Health and Welfare

THU APR 2	Animal Sheltering	RQ6
-----------	-------------------	-----

TUE APR 7	Veterinary Medicine	
THU APR 9	End of Life Care	
FRI APR 10		A3
Module 3: The Changing Status and Perception Of Animals		
<i>Part 1: Healing</i>		
TUE APR 14	Animals and Human Health	
THU APR 16	Prison Animal Programs	RQ7
<i>Part 2: Selfhood</i>		
TUE APR 21	Knowing Animal Selves	
THU APR 23	Animal Emotions	
<i>Part 3: Rights</i>		
TUE APR 28	The Fundamental Positions	RQ8
THU APR 30	Keeping it Real	CR4
MON MAY 4		SEE3

Relevant CU Policies

Accommodation for Disabilities If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. For each class, check with your faculty member in advance so that you are aware of their specific requirements for accommodating religious observances. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.