

Animal History

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Do animals have history? Yes, they certainly do; the circumstances of their lives, their interactions with other species, even their shared cultures, have changed significantly over time. And those changes have impacted human history as well. Animal pasts have been difficult for historians to uncover and to narrate, but they repay the effort by offering new and often surprising insights into our planet's history. This seminar will give you the opportunity to try your hand at writing the history of an animal (or animals) of your choice, anywhere in the world. We will also be reading key works of animal history, from squirrels to sperm whales, from colonialism to communism. These works will help you think critically about animal history, to locate the most promising primary sources, and to fire your own historical imagination.



Course Requirements (407)

1. Attendance and participation (15%). You are expected to attend class and contribute substantially to discussion each week.
2. Class discussion leadership (5%). Each student will choose one week during which they will lead class discussion. This includes developing a list of at least 10 discussion questions to be shared with the class by 2:00 pm on Tuesday.
3. Peer review (5%). You will be review fellow students' work in progress and provide comments on several occasions.
4. Research proposal (5%). A preliminary proposal (at least two paragraphs) and bibliography (at least 5 secondary sources and 5 primary sources) for your research paper. Due **April 18**.
5. Review of literature (10%). A review of the relevant secondary sources on your topic, explaining the primary arguments that already exist and where your analysis may fit in. At least two pages. Due **April 28**
6. Draft introduction and thesis statement (10%). A polished and properly-cited draft introduction to the research paper that clearly expresses its main argument. At least two pages. Due **May 12**.
7. Sample section (10%). A 3- to 4 – page portion of your final paper, concentrating on one aspect of your argument. The sample should be cited properly and edited for grammar and style. Due **May 26**.
8. Research paper (35%). A 12 – 15 page research paper that includes a substantial number of primary sources and develops an argument in conversation with existing secondary literature. As a rough guide, the paper should incorporate at least 5 primary sources and 10 secondary sources. Due **June 10**.
9. Research paper presentation (5%). You should present a summary of your final research paper along with any visual materials to class on **June 7**.

Course Requirements (507)

1. Attendance and participation (10%). You are expected to attend class and contribute substantially to discussion each week.
2. Introductory lecture (10%). You should choose one class during which you will provide a brief (20 minute) lecture giving undergraduate students a deeper understanding of the topic under discussion.
3. Peer review (5%). You will be review fellow students' work in progress and provide comments on several occasions.
4. Review of literature (10%). A review of the relevant secondary sources on your topic, explaining the primary arguments that already exist and where your analysis may fit in. At least two pages. Due **April 28**
5. Draft introduction and thesis statement (10%). A polished and properly-cited draft introduction to the research paper that clearly expresses its main argument. At least two pages. Due **May 12**.
6. Sample section (10%). A 3- to 4 – page portion of your final paper, concentrating on one aspect of your argument. The sample should be cited properly and edited for grammar and style. Due **May 26**.
7. Research paper (40%). A 20 – 25 page research paper that includes a substantial number of primary sources and develops an argument in conversation with existing secondary literature. As a rough guide, the paper should incorporate at least 10 primary sources and 15 secondary sources. Due **June 10**.
8. Research paper presentation (5%). You should present a summary of your final research paper along with any visual materials to class on **June 7**.

Class Schedule (Subject to Change)



= **Required Reading**



= **Additional (optional) Reading**

Week 1. March 31. What Is Animal History?



Susan Nance, “Animal History: The Final Frontier” (2015)

<https://www.oah.org/tah/issues/2015/november/animal-history-the-final-frontier/>



Andre Kreber, Brett Mizelle, Mieke Roscher, “What is Animal History and Why Does it Matter?” (2021) <https://blog.degruyter.com/humans-and-animals-entangled-in-history/>



Erica Fudge, “Writing the History of Animals: A Left-Handed Blow,” in Nigel Rothfels, eds., *Representing Animals: Theories of Contemporary Culture* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002). https://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/29540/1/left_handed_blow.pdf




Dan Vandermommers, “The ‘Animal Turn’ in History” *AHA Today* (2016)


<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/november-2016/the-animal-turn-in-history>





Ewa Domanska, “Animal History,” *History and Theory* 56:2 (June, 2017): 267 – 287.


Week 2. April 7. Sources for Animal History

 Zeb Tortorici, “Animal Archive Stories: Species Anxieties in the Mexican National Archive,” in Nance, ed., *The Historical Animal*.

 Lisa Cox, “Veterinary Artifacts and the Use of Material History,” in Nance, ed., *The Historical Animal*.

 Loren McClenachan, “Documenting Loss of Large Trophy Fish from the Florida Keys with Historical Photographs,” *Conservation Biology* 23:3 (2009).

 Concepcion Cortes Zulueta, “Nonhuman Animal Testimonies: A Natural *History in the First Person?* in Nance, ed., *The Historical Animal*


 Loren McClenachan, Francesco Ferretti, and Julia K. Baum, “From Archives to Conservation: Why Historical Data are Needed to Set Baselines for Marine Animals and Ecosystems,” *Conservation Letters* 5 (2012): 349 – 359.


Week 3. April 14. Research

Meeting with University librarian Miriam Rigby and Special Collection librarian Linda Long


Research Proposal Due April 18


Week 4. April 21. Animals and Colonialism

 Marcy Norton, "The Chicken and the *Iegue*: Human-Animal Relationships and the Columbian Exchange," *The American Historical Review* 120:1 (February, 2015): 28 – 60.


 Ryan Tucker Jones, "A Whale of a Difference: Southern Right Whale Culture and the Tasman's World's Living Terrain of Encounter," *Environment and History* 25 (2019): 185 – 218.


 Adrian Franklin, *Animal Nation: The True Story of Animals and Australia* (Sydney: UNSW Press, 2006).


 Annie Potts, Philip Armstrong, and Deidre Brown, eds., *A New Zealand Book of Beasts: Animals in our Culture, History, and Everyday Life* (Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2013).


 Jordan Sand, "People, animals, and island encounters: A pig's history of the Pacific," *Journal of Global History* (November, 2021).

 Anna Boswell, "The Sensible Order of the Eel," *Settler Colonial Studies*


 Shuk-Wah Poon, "Dogs and British Colonialism: The Contested Ban on Eating Dogs in Colonial Hong Kong," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 42:2 (March, 2014).


 Virginia Anderson, "King Phillip's Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England," *William and Mary Quarterly* 51:4 (October, 1994): 601 – 624.

 Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900 – 1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).


 Virginia DeJohn Anderson, *Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).


Week 5. April 28. Animals, Extinction, Ethics


 Jon Coleman, Introduction and Chapter 1, in *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004).


 Brett Walker, Chapter 3 in *The Lost Wolves of Japan* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2005).


Review of Literature due April 28


 Ian M. Helfant, “That Savage Gaze: The Contested Portrayal of Wolves in Nineteenth-century Russia,” in Jane Costlow and Amy Nelson, eds., *Other Animals: Beyond the Human in Russian Culture and History* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).


 Joanna Handlin Smith, “Liberating Animals in Ming-Qing China: Buddhist Inspiration and Elite Imagination,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 58:1 (February, 1999).

 Barbara Ambros, “Cultivating Compassion and Accruing Merit: Animal Release Rites during the Edo Period,” in Robert T. Singer and Masatomo Kawaii, eds., *The Life of Animals in Japanese Art* (Washington, DC: National Gallery, 2019).


 Lorraine Daston and Greg Mittman, eds., *Thinking with Animals: New Perspectives on Anthropomorphism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005).


 Andrew Isenberg, *The Destruction of the Bison: An Environmental History, 1750 – 1920* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

 David Owen, *Thylacine: The Tragic Tale of the Tasmanian Tiger* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2003).

 Ryan Tucker Jones, *Empire of Extinction: Russians and the Strange Beasts of the Sea, 1741 – 1867* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).

 David Mrazek, *From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon’s Flight to Extinction* (Video: The Video Project, 2014).

 Jennifer Price, *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America* (New York: Basic Books, 1999).

 Erroll Fuller, *The Passenger Pigeon* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014).

Week 6. May 5. The City and the Zoo



Etienne Benson, "The Urbanization of the Eastern Gray Squirrel in the United States," *The Journal of American History* 100:3 (December, 2013).



Nigel Rothfels, "The Most Friendly Creature," in *Elephant Trails: A History of Animals and Cultures* (Baltimore, 2021).



Annette Leiderer, "History of Animal Slaughter" in Mieke Roscher, Andre Krebber and Brett Mizelle, *De Gruyter Handbook of Historical Animal Studies* (2021).



Amy Nelson, "The Body of the Beast: Animal Protection and Anticruelty Legislation in Imperial Russia," in Costlow and Nelson, eds., *Other Animals*.



Charles Phineas, "Household Pets and Urban Alienation," *Journal of Social History* 7:3 (1974).



Kathlene Kete, "Animals and Ideology: The Politics of Animal Protection in Europe," in Nigel Rothfels, ed., *Representing Animals* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002).



Harriet Ritvo, *The Animal Estate: The English and Other Creatures in the Victorian Age* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987).



Ann Norton Green, *Horses at Work: Harnessing Power in Industrial America* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009).



Sandra Swart, "The World the Horses Made: A South African Case Study of Writing Animals into Social History," *International Review of Social History* 55:2 (August, 2010): 241 – 263.



Tony Weis, *The Ecological Hoofprint: The Global Burden of Industrial Livestock* (London: Zed Book, 2013).



Frederick Brown, *The City Is More than Human: An Animal History of Seattle* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016).



Hannah Velten, *Beastly London: A History of Animals in the City* (London: Reaktion, 2013).



Peter Atkins, "The Urban Blood and Guts Economy," in *Animal Cities: Beastly Urban Histories* (London: Taylor & Francis, 2012).

Week 7. May 12. Animals in War



Aaron Skabelund, Chapter 4 “Dogs of War: Mobilizing All Creatures Great and Small,” in *Empire of Dogs: Canines, Japan, and the Making of the Modern World*



Jason Colby, “Conscripting Leviathan: Science, Cetaceans, and the Cold War,” *Diplomatic History* 44:3 (2020): 466 – 478.

Intro and thesis statement due May 12



John Kinder, “Zoo Animals and Modern War: Casualties, Patriotic Citizens, and Good Soldiers,” in Ryan Hediger, ed., *Animals and War: Studies of Europe and North America* (Brill: Leiden, Boston, 2013).



Frederick Litton, “Starving the Elephants: The Slaughter of Animals in Wartime Tokyo’s Ueno Zoo,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 7:38 (September, 2009).





Greg Bankoff, “A Curtain of Silence: Asia’s Fauna in the Cold War,” in John McNeil and Corinna Unger, eds., *Environmental Histories of the Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).




Boria Sax, *Animals in the Third Reich: Pets, Scapegoats and the Holocaust* (New York: Continuum, 2000).

Week 8. May 19. Animals and Socialism

 Thomas Fleischman, “The Manure Crisis,” in *Communist Pigs: An Animal History of East Germany’s Rise and Fall* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2020).

 Bathsheba Demuth, “The Walrus and the Bureaucrat: Energy, Ecology, and Making the State in the Russian and American Arctic, 1870 – 1950,” *American Historical Review*

 Olesya Turkina, *Soviet Space Dogs* (FUEL, 2014).


 Ryan Tucker Jones, “Soviet Whale Scientists and the Crisis in the World’s Oceans,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 23:1 (Winter, 2022).

 Lijing Jiang, “The Socialist Origins of Artificial Carp Reproduction in Maoist China,” *Science, Technology & Society* 22:1 (March, 2017): 59 – 77.

 Bathsheba Demuth, *Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait* (New York: Norton, 2019).


Week 9. May 26. Animals in Science


 Londa Schiebinger, “Why Animals Are Called Mammals: Gender Politics in Eighteenth-Century Natural History,” *The American Historical Review* 98:2 (April, 1993): 382 – 411.


 Anita Guerrini, “Deep History, Evolutionary History and Animals in the Anthropocene,” in *Animal Ethics in the Age of Humans* (2016).

Sample chapter due May 26

 Etienne Benson, *Wired Wilderness: Technologies of Tracking and the Making of Modern Wildlife* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010).

 Donna Haraway, *Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science* (New York: Routledge, 1989).

 Jim Endersby, *A Guinea Pig’s History of Biology: The Plants and Animals Who Taught us the Facts of Life* (London: William Heinemann, 2007).

 Anita Guerrini, *Experimenting with Humans and Animals: From Galen to Animal Rights* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

Week 10. June 2. No Class

Final Exam Tuesday June 7. In-Class Presentations