

Fall 2018

HIST/ENVS 2504: ANIMALS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Professor: Strother Roberts

Email: seroberts@bowdoin.edu

Meeting Time: M/W 10:05-11:30am

Office: Dudley Coe 304

Room: H-L Room 22/MCSR

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30-11:30am



Course Description: Although modern humans tend to think of themselves as above nature, they are in fact part of it: partners in a myriad of relationships that have tied them to other members of the animal kingdom throughout their history. This course examines a number of these relationships, focusing on North America from the sixteenth through the twentieth century. Topics considered include the role of animals in the development of the American economy, how domestic and wild animals have shaped the American environment, how Americans have conceived of the boundary between humanity and animality, and how pets have come to be viewed as part of the modern family.

Assignments:

Primary Source Analysis – TWO-page essay (double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 pt. Times New Roman font) analyzing a theme or themes contained in the Bison Documents (see Sept 24).

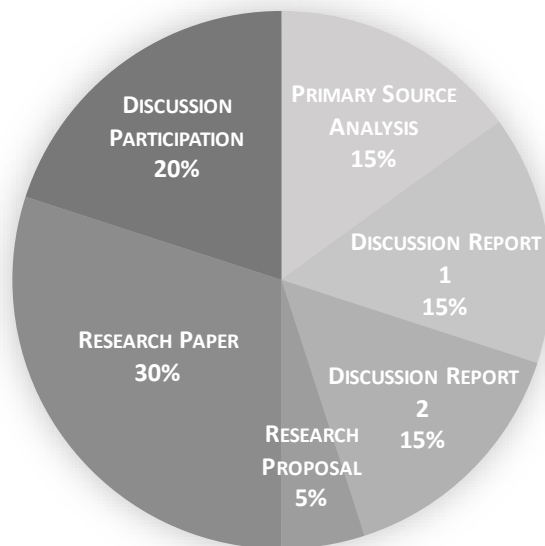
Two Discussion Leader Reports – Each student will be responsible for leading two class discussions, one session from Phase I and one from Phase II. On each occasion the student will submit a ~5-page analysis paper on the day’s readings. This paper should identify the thesis of the assigned readings, outline the arguments and evidence used to prove that thesis, explain how the readings relate analytically to one another and to previous readings, and analyze the treatment that the readings received during discussion. Discussion leadership will usually be performed in pairs, but each leader is responsible for independently producing an analysis paper. Papers will be due on Blackboard by 12:00pm three days after the discussion.

Discussion Participation – Regular participation in class discussions is central to a seminar of this nature. While not every student will necessarily be required to speak during every class period, students will be graded on whether they make regular and substantive contributions to discussion over the course of the semester.

Research Proposal - ~2-page proposal for an independent research paper. Should identify the historical question to be pursued, as well as some potential sources. These final papers should focus on some aspect of animals as physical actors or as mental constructs (or both) in American history.

Final Research Paper – ~10-page research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the Professor

Grading:



Primary Source Analysis worth 15%; Two Discussion Leader Reports each worth 15%; Research Proposal worth 5%; Final Research Paper worth 30%; Discussion Participation worth 20%

Attendance:

You will not receive any credit directly for attendance, but unexcused absences will likely impact your final participation grade. Moreover, for every three unexcused absences your final course grade will be penalized by one full letter grade, the above grading rubric notwithstanding.

Required Texts:

1. David DeGrazia, *Animal Rights: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2002)
2. All other readings will be available online through Blackboard or E-Reserve

CALENDAR

INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1: Introduction

Aug 29: Welcome to Class! (Also, Goats)

WEEK 2:

Sep 3: Defining a Field & Fun With Critical Analysis! (Or, at least, Critical Analysis)

- Harriet Ritvo, "On the Animal Turn," *Daedalus* 136, no.4 (Fall 2007), 118-122. [≈ 4 pages]
- Harriet Ritvo, "Animal Planet," *Environmental History* 9, no. 2 (April 2004), 204-220. [≈ 15 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Jon Coleman's *Vicious* (37-39), *Of Plymouth Plantation*, and literature on wolf behavior

Sep 5: In the Beginning; or "Traditional" Views of Animals

- Erica Fudge, "Being Human," in *Brutal Reasoning: Animals, Rationality, and Humanity in Early Modern England* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2006), 7-38. [≈ 30 pages]
- Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, "Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism," *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 4, no. 3 (September 1998), 469-488. [≈ 20 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Excerpt from Genesis (KJV), Navaho Emergence Story [≈ 4 pages]

PHASE I

WEEK 3

Sep 10: Beasts & Bugs

- Paul S. Martin, "The Pleistocene Overkill," *Natural History* 76 (December 1967), 32-38. [≈7 pages]
- Alfred Crosby, *Germes, Seeds, & Animals: Studies in Ecological History* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1994), ix-xv, 27-44. [≈35 pages]
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), 195-197, 212-213. [≈ 5 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Vine Deloria, Jr., Excerpt and Smallpox [≈ 6 pages]

Sep 12: Strange New World

- Andrea L. Smalley, *Wild By Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017), 11-40. [≈30 pages]
- Susan Scott Parrish, "The Female Opossum and the Nature of the New World," *William and Mary Quarterly* 54, no. 3 (July 1997), 475-477, 487-514. [≈30 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Mermaids & Rattlesnakes [≈ 2 pages]

WEEK 4

Sep 17: Beaver

- Calvin Martin, "The European Impact on the Culture of a Northeastern Algonquin Tribe," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 31, no.1 (Jan. 1974), 3-26. [≈25 pages]
- Strother E. Roberts, "Hunting Beaver: The Post-Diluvian World of the Fur Trade," in *Colonial Ecology, Atlantic Economy: Transforming Nature in Early Modern New England* (chapter from unpublished book manuscript). [48 manuscript pages of text ≈ 35 printed pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Fur Trade In the Northeast [≈2 pages]

Sep 19: Livestock

- Virginia DeJohn Anderson, “King Philip’s Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 51, no. 4 (1994), 601-624. [≈20 pages]
- John M. Murrin, “‘Things Fearful to Name’: Bestiality in Colonial America,” *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 65 (1998), 8-43. [≈35 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Wandering Livestock [≈2 pages]

WEEK 5

Sep 24: Horses & Bison

- Pekka Hämäläinen, “The Politics of Grass: European Expansion, Ecological Change, and Indigenous Power in the Southwest Borderlands,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 67, no. 2 (April 2010), 173-208. [≈35 pages]
- Andrew Isenberg, “Social and Environmental Causes and Consequences of the Destruction of the Bison,” *Revue Française d’Études Américaines*, no. 70, spec. iss. *L’Écologie aux États-Unis* (October 1996), 15-27. [≈10 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Sheridan, Dixon, and Plenty-Coups [≈5 pages]
Also, Michael Martin Murphey, “Wildfire” (Song)

Sep 26: Race and the Humanimal Body

- Joyce E. Chaplin, “Natural Philosophy and an Early Racial Idiom in North America: Comparing English and Indian Bodies,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 54, no. 1 (1997), 229-252 [≈ 25 pages]
- Lee Alan Dugatkin, “Preface,” and “Enter The Moose,” in *Mr. Jefferson and the Giant Moose: Natural History in Early America* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2009), ix-xii, 81-100. [≈ 20 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: A Virginian Opposes Emancipation (1781), Offended Salmon (1751) [≈ 2 pages]

Sep 28: PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS PAPER DUE FRIDAY BY Noon

WEEK 6

Oct 1: Dogs

- Mark. A. Mastromarino, “Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks: The English Mastiff and the Anglo-American Experience,” *The Historian* 49, no. 1 (November 1986), 10-25. [≈ 15 pages]
- Katherine C. Grier, “A Natural History of Pets,” in *Pets in America: A History* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2006), 19-46. [≈ 25 pages]
- Edmund Russell, *Evolutionary History: Uniting History and Biology to Understand Life on Earth* (Studies in Environment and History) (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 54, 58-66. [≈ 10 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Dog Control Regulation in 1790s Massachusetts [≈ 4 pages]

Oct 3: The Organic City

- Catherine McNeur, “Mad Dogs and Loose Hogs,” in *Taming Manhattan: Environmental Battles in the Antebellum City* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014), 6-44. [≈ 40 pages]
- Ted Steinberg, “The Death of the Organic City,” in *Down To Earth: Nature’s Role in American History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 155-169. [≈ 15 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Boston Common Images [≈ 3 pages]

PHASE II

WEEK 7

Oct 8: No Class: Fall Break

Oct 10: No Class: Arrange Individual Meetings

Oct 12: SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH TOPIC by Noon

WEEK 8

Oct 15: Sentience and Sentiment

- Brett Mizelle, “‘Man Cannot Behold It Without Contemplating Himself’: Monkeys, Apes and Human Identity in the Early American Republic,” *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 66 (1999), 144-173. [≈ 30 pages]
- Susan J. Pearson, *The Rights of the Defenseless: Protecting Children and Animals in Gilded Age America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), 21-56. [≈ 35 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Animal Cruelty Sources and Harriet Beecher Stowe, “Aunt Esther’s Rules” (1865) [≈ 5 pages]

Oct 17: Conservation as Social Control

- Steven Hahn, “Hunting, Fishing, and Foraging: Common Rights and Class Relations in the Postbellum South,” *Radical History Review* 1982, no. 26 (October 1982), 37-64. [≈ 25 pages]
- Mark David Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of National Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 3-8, 83-100. [≈ 25 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Charles Askins and Ben Senowin [≈ 6 pages]

WEEK 9:

Oct 22: Animals and Science

- Elizabeth Hanson, *Animal Attractions: Nature on Display in American Zoos* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2002), 11-40. [≈ 30 pages]
- Craig Buettinger, “Antivivisection and the Charge of Zoophil-Psychosis in the Early Twentieth Century,” *The Historian* 55, no. 2 (Winter 1993), 277-288. [≈ 10 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Caroline E. White (1884) and Senate Hearing (1900) [≈ 6 pages]

Oct 24: Writing About Animals at the Turn of the Century

- Ralph H. Lutts, “John H. Burroughs and William J. Long – The Battle Begins,” in *Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science, and Sentiment* (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1990), 37-68. [≈ 30 pages]
- Carolyn Merchant, “George Bird Grinnell’s Audubon Society: Bridging the Gender Divide in Conservation,” *Environmental History* 15, no. 1 (Jan. 2010), 3-30. [≈ 30 pages]
- DOCUMENT: Peter Rabbit, Brier-Patch Philosophy, inter. William J. Long (1906; 1923) [≈ 8 pages]

WEEK 10:

Oct 29: A Silent Spring

- DOCUMENT: Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 50th Anniversary Ed. (Boston: Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin, 1962, 2002), x-14, 103-128, 277-297. [≈ 70 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: Peanuts (1963), Joni Mitchell’s Big Yellow Taxi (1970), Henry I. Miller “Rachel Carson’s Deadly Fantasies” (2012) [≈ 4 pages]

Oct 31: Whales

- Rob Van Ginkel, “The Makah Whale Hunt and Leviathan’s Death: Reinventing Tradition and Disputing Authenticity in the Age of Modernity,” *Etnofoor* 17, no. 1/2 (2004), 58-89. [≈ 30 pages]
- Nancy Shoemaker, “Whale Meat in American History,” *Environmental History* 10, no. 2 (April 2005), 269-294. [≈ 25 pages]
- DOCUMENTS: *To Save a Whale: The Voyages of Greenpeace* (1978) [≈ 10 pages]

WEEK 11:

Nov 5: Animal Rights

- David DeGrazia, *Animal Rights*, 12-66. [≈ 45 pages]
- Emily Gaarder, “Where the Boys Aren't: The Predominance of Women in Animal Rights Activism,” *Feminist Formations* 23, no. 2 (Summer 2011), 54-76. [≈ 20 pages]
- **PRIMARY SOURCES DUE TO PROFESSOR**

PHASE III

Nov 7: In-Class Discussion of Projects

WEEK 12: Project Discussion

Nov 12: In-Class Discussion of Projects

Nov 14: In-Class Discussion of Projects

WEEK 13:

Nov 19: Modern Meat

- Watch *Food Inc.* (excerpts about livestock raising & meat processing)
- De Grazia, *Animal Rights*, 67-80 [≈15 pages]
- DOCUMENT: Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1905) [≈ 10 pages]
--Sinclair: "I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident hit them in the stomach."

Nov 21: NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 14: MOVIE WEEK

Nov 26: Anthropomorphism and the Romanticization of Wildlife in Juvenile Media

- Watch *Bambi* (1942)

Nov 28: Nature as Villain

- Watch *Jaws* (1975)

WEEK 15: Wrapping Up

Dec 3: Crypto-Zoology

- Daniel Loxton and Donald R. Prothero, “Cryptozoology,” and “Bigfoot,” in *Abominable Science: Origins of the Yeti, Nessie and Other Famous Cryptids* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013), 4- 27, 30-71. [≈ 65 pages]
- DOCUMENT: Excerpt from TR’s *The Wilderness Hunter* (1893) [≈ 8 pages]

Dec 5: Review

WEEK 17: FINALS WEEK

Dec 10: Reading Period

- Work on FINAL PAPERS.

Dec 12: No Class (Finals Week)

Dec 13: **FINAL PAPERS Due on Blackboard by 11:30am**

WARNINGS AND DISCLAIMERS

SYLLABUS: This Syllabus is a living document and will likely evolve over the course of the semester. You can always find the most recent assignments on Blackboard under the “Readings” tab.

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard will be an integral part of this course. The syllabus, descriptions of assignments, useful guides, and any changes hereafter will be posted there. You are required to check Blackboard regularly and will be responsible for all material on the course site.

FILMS: Film screenings are intended for class purposes only and, in accordance with copyright law, are not open to the public.

CITATION OF SOURCES: When referring to sources (primary and secondary) in your papers, you should provide a complete citation including author, title, publisher, place and date of publication, and page numbers. Citations should follow the “Chicago-style” format commonly used by historians. I ask that you use footnotes with all of your paper assignments. The library website has citation information under “Get Started,” and I have included several links on Blackboard. Please see me if you have any questions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students must read and abide by the Academic Honor and Social Code (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>). Suspected cases of plagiarism will result in a conference me, and, if unresolved at that point, will be referred to the Judicial Board. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please consult a reference librarian or ask me.