

**Animals & Health**  
**SOCL 3813-101**  
Fall 2020 | TR 8:00am-9:20am  
Classroom: Prothro-Yeager 202

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**Professor:** Dr. Jennifer Pace

**Office:** O'Donohoe 131 (PY Building)  
\*Office hours will be held via Zoom

**Office Hours:** Tues 9:30AM -12:30PM  
Weds 12:00-2:00PM

**Email:** [Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu)  
\*Note: I will return emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends.

**Required Texts:**

- 1) Margo DeMello. 2012 *Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies*. Columbia University Press.
- 2) Hal Herzog. 2010. *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals*. Harper Perennial Press.

\*All additional readings will be available on our D2L course website.

**Virtual Office Hours:** Virtual office hours will be held virtually via Zoom. You can create an MSU Zoom account here: <https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us> **If you're planning to attend virtual office hours, you must email me to let me know** (include what time you plan to attend). You will then be emailed a link to our office hour meeting.

**Course Description:** Non-human animals play so many roles in human existence that it is hard to imagine "society" without them. They figure heavily in our language, food, clothing, family structure, economy, education, entertainment, science, and recreation. Our relationships with animals and the ways we use them produce ambivalent and contradictory attitudes. Although we consider some animals family members and allow them to share our homes, we consider some food and still others pests. In this course, we will investigate how our ideas about animals and relationships with them have varied over time and across cultures, with a particular emphasis on health and well-being. We will examine how human-animal relationships can provide a lens through which to study human societies. In this course, we will investigate the human-animal relationships that exist for our physical, emotional, and mental health, entertainment, survival, and social awareness.

**Evaluation:** Grading for this course will be determined by the following breakdown:

Weekly Summaries	20%
Mini Quiz	5%
Research Paper	25%
Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
TOTAL	100%

*structor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as necessary\*\**

## **Grades:**

**Weekly Summaries (20%):** There will be 12 weekly reading summaries collected over the course of the semester and 10 will count toward your grade. This means you get 2 free “drops” – use them wisely. There are no “make-ups” for weekly summaries. If you are sick, need to travel, over sleep, etc., then you can use one of your free drops.

**\*Weekly Reading Summaries:** Every week (by class time on **Tuesday**), you should prepare for class by writing a **summary of ALL of the week’s readings** along with **three discussion questions**. Your summary of the week’s readings should be approximately 1.5 to 2 pages in length (**typed, double spaced**). Handwritten assignments will not be accepted. Summaries should demonstrate that you have read all of the readings assigned for the week. Your discussion questions should be based on the readings for the entire week. You will use these summaries/questions to facilitate your participation in class, for group discussions, and/or to help prepare you for exams.

**Mini Reading Quiz (5%):** There will be one short, 10 question reading quiz during the last week of class on Thursday (Dec. 3rd). The quiz will include True/False and Multiple Choice questions based on content from Weeks 13 through 15.

**Research Paper (25%):** You will develop a 5 to 7-page paper (not including title or reference pages) on a topic of your choice related to Animals, Society, and Health. *Additional information will be given later in the semester.*

**Exams (50%):** There will be two exams, each worth 25% of your final grade. Exam material will be drawn from lectures, readings, and other course content/activities. The exams will consist of a combination of True/False, Multiple-Choice, and Short Answer questions. Exam questions will synthesize content from across course topics.

*Exam Make-Up Policy: Missed exams can only be made up with official documentation of an extenuating circumstance (see below).*

**\*Discussion Board Posts (Participation):** Participation is an important component of this course. Due to the current health crisis, we are focusing our participation tracking online, through our D2L course site. *Participation will affect your grade.* Every week, you are required to post to our D2L Discussion Board one original comment and one response comment to one of your classmates. *For every missed post past your second, your final grade will be docked one percentage point.*

**Extenuating Circumstances:** Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances happen. If you experience an extenuating circumstance, you must produce official documentation to “excuse” your absence from class. Documentation includes:

- A written note from a physician or MSU infirmary
- A written note from a physician for a family member’s illness
- Written evidence of attending a mandatory university function (band, choir, sports, etc.)
- Written evidence of death of a family member (ask professor about documentation)
- Official documentation of mandatory military obligation
- Official documentation of required jury or court appearance
- Religious observance (ask professor about documentation)

## **OTHER IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION**

**The Americans with Disabilities Act:** The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Office of Disability Accommodation.

**Religious Observance:** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a religious observance conflict, you will need to provide written proof of the conflict and I will work with you on an individual basis to address the issue. It is your responsibility to review the syllabus, note any possible conflicts, and discuss alternatives with me at the beginning of the semester.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty will no be tolerated in this class. All students of Midwestern State University are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior, and aid of academic dishonesty. Those found to be in violation of the MSU Texas Student Honor Creed will be reported to the university.

### **Classroom Behavior:**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavior standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and tops dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities.

### Grading Scale:

Letter	Percentage	Description
A	90-100	Exceptional: Exceeds all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is considerably greater than what is required.
B	80-89	Good: Meets all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is better than what is required.
C	70-79	Average: Meets all required elements of an assignment, no more, no less. Quality of assignment is satisfactory for college level work.
D	60-69	Below average: Does not meet all the required elements of the assignment, and/or the quality is below satisfactory.
F	59 and below	Failing: Almost none of the requirements of the assignment are met and/or the quality of the assignment is unacceptable.

### Course Policies:

1. No laptops or cell phones are allowed in lecture. If you have a disability or special circumstance that requires you to use a laptop, please see me to discuss.
2. There are no “make-ups” or “early turn-ins” for in-class work/assignments/quizzes.
3. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. For in-class notes, please contact one of your classmates. I do not post lecture slides online.
4. In this class, as in many sociology classes, our discussion will often focus on controversial issues that may arouse intense feelings and disagreement. While enthusiastic discussion of these issues is encouraged, inappropriate/disrespectful comments will not be tolerated.
5. As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if I believe your comments and/or actions are contributing to a classroom environment where not all individuals (myself included) feel respected and safe.
6. Please do not get up and leave class, or start packing up to leave, before our time is up. **Please avoid being late to class.** It is distracting to both me and the other students. If you must leave early or come late, let me know ahead of time. Disrupting class by being late/leaving early will have a negative impact on your grade. When you arrive late and disrupt our class, you will not be counted as in attendance for the day (which will negatively impact your final grade). For repeated tardiness, you may be asked to leave for the day.

**Students who violate these policies are subject to being dropped with an F for the class at the faculty member's discretion**

**Peer Contact Information (your first source for missed material)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# COURSE SCHEDULE

- ❖ Readings/summaries of readings for the week are due by **Tuesday** at the beginning of class.
- ❖ Readings marked with \* are found on our D2L course website.
- ❖ Readings marked with ~ (DeMello and Herzog) are found in your required texts.
- ❖ *Note: Readings and scheduled items are subject to change.*

## **UNIT 1: MAKING SENSE OF THE HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIP**

### **Week 1 (8/24-8/28): INTRODUCING ANIMAL STUDIES**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch.1 Human-Animal Studies  
~Herzog – Introduction: Why is it So Hard to Think Straight About Animals?

*Due & Events:* Summary #1 due Thursday

### **Week 2 (8/31-9/04): CONSTRUCTING ANIMALS**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch.3 The Social Construction of Animals  
~Herzog – Ch.2 The Importance of Being “Cute”

*Due & Events:* Summary #2 due

### **Week 3 (9/08-9/11): MAKING SENSE OF PETS AND INFLUENCE ON HUMAN WELL-BEING**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch.8 The Pet Animal  
~Herzog – Ch. 3 Pet-O-Philia: Why Do Humans Love Pets?

*Due & Events:* Summary #3 due

### **Week 4 (9/14-9/18): WHAT IS IT ABOUT PEOPLE AND DOGS?**

*Readings:* ~Herzog – Ch. 4 Friends, Foes, and Fashion Statements: The Human-Dog Relationship  
\*Wells, Deborah. “Domestic Dogs and Human Health.”

*Events & Due:* Summary #4 due

### **Week 5 (9/21-9/25): ANIMALS AND SOCIAL IDENTITIES: RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch. 13 Human Oppression and Animal Suffering  
~Herzog – Ch. 5 Gender and the Human-Animal Relationship

*Events & Due:* Summary #5 due

**Week 6 (9/28-10/02): Review & Exam #1**

*Readings:* N/A

*Due & Events:* **EXAM #1 (Thursday)**

**UNIT 2: RECONCILING ANIMAL WELFARE AND HUMAN HEALTH**

**Week 7 (10/05-10/09): ANIMALS, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch.9 Animals and Science  
~Herzog – Ch.8 The Moral Status of Mice: The Use of Animals in Science

*Events & Due:* Summary #6 due

**Week 8 (10/12-10/16): ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT ANIMALS**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch. 10 Animal Assisted Activities  
\*Laurent-Simpson, Andrea. “Considering the Emotional Support Animal.”

*Events & Due:* Summary #7 due

**Week 9 (10/19-10/23): ANIMALS FACILITATING SOCIAL HEALTH**

*Readings:* \*Furst, Gennifer. “How Prison-Based Animal Programs Change Prisoner Participants.”  
\*Sanders, Clinton and Spencer Cahill. “Pet-Facilitated Interaction in a Public Setting.”

*Events & Due:* Summary #8 due

**Week 10 (10/26-10/30): MEAT AS “NOURISHMENT”: CONSUMING ANIMALS**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch. 7 The Making and Consumption of Meat  
\*McDonald, Barbara. “Becoming Vegan.”

*Events & Due:* Summary #9 due

**Week 11 (11/02-11/06): VIOLENCE**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch.12 Violence to Animals  
\*Flynn, Clifton. “Battered Women and Their Animal Companions.”

*Events & Due:* Summary #10 due

**Week 12 (11/09-11/13): REVIEW & EXAM 2**

*Readings:* N/A

*Due & Events:* **EXAM #2 (Thursday)**

**UNIT 3: CARE AND ETHICS**

**Week 13 (11/16-11/20): STRUGGLES IN ANIMAL CAREWORK**

*Readings:* \*Arluke, Arnold. "Hope and Conflict in the Social World of Animal Sheltering."  
\*Swabe, Joanna. "Veterinary Dilemmas."

*Events & Due:* Summary #11 due

**Week 14 (11/23-11/24): FALL BREAK**

*Readings:* N/A

*Events & Due:* No class Tuesday (Alternative Assignment Online)  
No class Thursday (Fall Break)

**Week 15 (11/30-12/04): RECONCILING ANIMALS, HEALTH, AND ETHICS**

*Readings:* ~DeMello – Ch.18 The Moral Status of Animals  
~Herzog – Ch.10 Dealing with Moral Inconsistency

*Events & Due:* Move to online instruction (no in-person class)  
Summary #12 due (Due on Tuesday – on our D2L course site)  
**Mini Reading Quiz (Available 8am-5pm on Thursday, Dec. 3rd – on our D2L site)**

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE Monday, Dec. 7th**  
**PAPER SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA OUR D2L COURSE WEBSITE**

**(WE DO NOT HAVE A FINAL EXAM)**