

**Animals & Health**  
**SOCL 3813-101**  
Fall 2022 | MW 12:30-1:50  
Classroom: PY100

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**Professor:** Dr. Beverly L. Stiles  
**Office:** O'Donohoe 124 (PY Building)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon. 9:30–11:00  
Tues. 9:00-9:30; 11:30-12:30  
Wed. 9:30–11:00  
Thurs. 9:00-9:30  
Fri. By Appointment

**Required Texts:**

- 1) Margo DeMello. 2021 *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.
- 3) All additional readings will be available on our D2L course website.

**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 as family members, 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:

Attendance:	26 points
4 Summaries	45 points
Quizzes	129 points
Exam #1	100 points
<u>Exam #2</u>	<u>100 points</u>
TOTAL	400 points

**Grades:**

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

A = 360-400  
B = 320-359  
C = 280-319  
D = 240-279  
F = below 240

### 1) There are 4 Weekly Summaries/reactions:

\*Reading Summaries: Each week, you are to have read the readings for the week by Monday of each week. Four times (designated below) you are to summarize each reading for the week, along with providing your reaction to the reading. Your reaction should be the last paragraph or two after each summary. It's an automatic half deduction if you fail to provide your reaction for even one of the readings. This will be turned in on D2L on Monday by noon (so before class at 12:30). I will NOT accept late summaries for any reason, because you could choose to work ahead rather than waiting until the last minute. So, computer problems are not an excuse for trying to turn in a late summary. There should be no complaining about these 4 summaries because I will not require a final paper in the class because of this writing assignment. This is not hard, but it will take some time. Plan to spend a good amount of time on each summary. Also, this will help prepare you for not only the discussions but also the quizzes.

2) **Quizzes**: I will give quizzes almost every week to keep you present and keep you reading and engaged in this class. I will have 129 points work of quizzes. As some of you have had me before, you know that sometimes quiz points take the form of writing something or just for being present, for example when we have a speaker.

3) **Attendance**: You will receive one point for 26 days of being in class. This does not count exam days, nor the first day of class.

4) **Exams**: There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. These will come from lectures, readings, and other course content/activities, speakers, films etc. 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). Missed exams are not the same as the class took and will consist of primarily essay format.*

**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.

**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 topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities.

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” for 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.
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. 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--you will not get the attendance point for the day).

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

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

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

- ❖ Readings/summaries of readings for the week are due on D2L by each Monday at noon
- ❖ 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**

DATE	Readings/Videos/Etc.
Week 1 8/22-8/24	<u>INTRODUCING ANIMAL STUDIES</u> ~DeMello – Ch.1 Human-Animal Studies ~Herzog – Introduction: Why is it So Hard to Think Straight About Animals?
Week 2 8/29-8/31	<u>CONSTRUCTING ANIMALS</u> ~DeMello – Ch. 3 The Social Construction of Animals ~Herzog – Ch. 2 The Importance of Being “Cute”

DATE	Readings/Videos/Etc.
	<b>VIDEO:</b> Herzog
Week 3 9/07	<u>MAKING SENSE OF PETS AND INFLUENCE ON HUMAN WELL-BEING</u> ~DeMello – Ch. 8 The Pet Animal ~Herzog – Ch. 3 Pet-O-Philia: Why Do Humans Love Pets? *Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection (only 2 pages) <b>SPEAKER:</b> Hospice on pet grief
Week 4 9/12-9/14	<u>MAKING SENSE...CONT'D</u> ~Herzog-Ch. 4 Friends, Foes, and Fashion Statements: The Human-Dog Relationship *“Domestic Dogs and Human Health” <b>VIDEO:</b> Dogs Decoded or another video <b>SPEAKER:</b> Karen Moriarty (Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> )
Week 5 9/19-9/21	<u>ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHER ANIMALS</u> ~DeMello – Ch. 13 Human Oppression and Animal Suffering ~Herzog – Ch. 5 Gender and the Human-Animal Relationship *Childhood Pet Keeping and Human Attitudes in Young Adulthood *Animal Rights and Human Social Issues *Combats of Elephants by Pliny the Elder (2 pages) <b>VIDEO:</b> Katrina’s Animal Rescue <b>SUMMARY #1</b> due on 9/19 by noon on D21 (15 points)
Week 6 9/26-9/28	<u>EXAM AND READINGS ON ANIMALS, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH</u> EXAM #1 (Monday, the 26 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>VIDEOS:</b> The Laboratory Rat: A Natural History Chimpanzees – An Unnatural History

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

Week 7 10/3-10/5	<u>ANIMALS, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH</u> ~DeMello – Ch. 9 Animals and Science ~Herzog – Ch. 8 The Moral Status of Mice: The Use of Animals in Science *Humans and Other Animals: Sociology’s Moral and Intellectual Challenge
Week 8 10/10-10/12	<u>ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT ANIMALS</u> ~DeMello – Ch. 10 Animal Assisted Activities *“Considering the Emotional Support Animal” <b>VIDEOS:</b> 2 short videos on guide dogs and prison puppy programs

Week 9 10/17-10/19	<p><u>ANIMALS FACILITATING SOCIAL HEALTH:</u>  *”How prison-Based Animal Programs Change Prisoner Participants”  * “Pet-Facilitated Interaction in a Public Setting”  <b>VIDEO:</b> a Horse, A Convict, A Chance for Change</p>
Week 10 10/24-10/26	<p><u>MEAT AS “NORISHMENT”: CONSUMING ANIMALS:</u>  ~DeMello – Ch. 7 The Making and Consumption of Meat  *”Becoming Vegan”</p>
Week 11 10/31  11/2	<p><u>ANIMAL SELF, HUMAN SELF:</u>  *Identity, Community, and Grief: The Role of Bunspace in Human and Rabbit Lives  <b>SPEAKER:</b> Dr. Kirsten Lodge</p> <p><u>THE DARK SIDE:</u>  ~DeMello – Ch. 12 Violence to Animals  *”Battered Women and Their Animal Companions”  *”Dogfighting: Symbolic Expression and Validation of Masculinity”  <b>SUMMARIES #2</b> due on 10/31 by noon, uploaded on D2L  Bonus, for summaries if you mention something from the Bunspace.com site that I send info about. This would be included in the summary of the Bunspace article that you’ll read before Dr. Lodge comes to speak.</p>
Week 12 11/7-11/9	<p><u>VIDEOS THIS WEEK</u>  The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill On 11/7  Another video on 11/9. I may show Shelter Dogs because I’m not certain that I’ll have time to show it on 11/14.</p>
<b>UNIT 3</b>	<p><b>CARING AND KILLING: CONSIDERING ETHICS IN ANIMALS AND HEALTH</b></p>
Week 13 11/14-11/16	<p><u>ETHICAL STRUGGLES IN CARING FOR ANIMALS</u>  *”HOPE AND Conflict in the Social World of Animal Sheltering  *”Veterinary Dilemmas”  *Hoarding of Animals: An Under-recognized Public Health Problem in a Difficult-to-Study Population  <b>VIDEO:</b> Shelter Dogs  <b>SPEAKER:</b> Jan Herzog on 11/16  <b>SUMMARIES #3</b> due on 11/14 by noon, uploaded on D2L.</p>
Week 14 11/21	<p><b>.EXAM 2</b> on 11/21  No class on Wednesday: Fall Break/Thanksgiving</p>
Week 15 11/28-11/30	<p><u>RECONCILING ANIMALS, HEALTH, AND ETHICS</u>  ~DeMello – Ch. 18 The Moral Status of Animals  ~Herzog – Ch. 10 Dealing with Moral Inconsistency  <b>VIDEO:</b> Jane Goodall: Reasons for Hope  <b>SUMMARIES #4</b> due on 11/28 by noon, uploaded on D2L</p>