

Spring 2018  
**HONORS 2953H-902**  
**HONORS PROGRAM SECOND YEAR SEMINAR**

Thematic Title: *Animals in Captivity*

W 6:00-7:40 PM

Lalumiere Language Hall 384

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Office Phone: 414-288-6860

Office Hours: MW 12:35ish PM-1:55ish PM or by appointment

This course considers the lives of animals in captivity: in zoos, in amusement parks, for the purposes of medical research, as workers, and as pets. As the line between human and animal becomes more and more blurred by advances in biological, behavioral, and genetic science, how must our relationship with the animals around us change? Our interdisciplinary study of animals will make unexpected and rich connections between a variety of academic approaches in science, medicine, history, philosophy, theology, literary study, economics, and the law, as well as probe significant disagreements about what is good and bad about the way we treat animals today.

### **LEARNING GOALS**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the cultural, historical, and political contexts in which various types of texts have been produced and commented upon;
- Interpret narratives about animals through a variety of methodologies and critical perspectives;
- Understand and participate in ongoing academic debates in “animal studies,” both within and outside the humanities;
- Use interdisciplinary study to develop skills for careful reading and clear writing;

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald (ed.), *The Animals Reader*

Karen Joy Fowler, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*

*Blackfish* (2015) will be screened in class. Other readings will be provided in class or via D2L.

### **GRADES AND EXPECTATIONS**

This is a pass/fail course, which means your work will be evaluated outside the usual disciplinary framework of graded assignments. But this fact should not be misunderstood to mean that our collective project is somehow frivolous or unimportant. The lack of grades is an exciting and rare opportunity for us to work and learn together in a more egalitarian context than the typical college classroom—*not* an excuse for you to blow this class off or fail to take it seriously.

### **THAT BEING SAID**

This is a course about a musical (which is meant to be fun!) that is itself intended to be fun. What will make this class most fun, and most useful to you as emerging scholars, is a shared dedication to diving into this experience and getting the most we can get out of it together.

### **THAT BEING SAID**

This class will therefore be an experiment in student-driven course development. I have planned some readings for the first six weeks of our course—which we can take or leave—but I want to spend the remainder of our time together tonight planning not just the topics you want to pursue in this class but the course procedures, assignments, and culminating experience that you think will make this class a standout experience in your college career while also fitting within your existing workload and copious other commitments.

To us start off, here's what's *not* up for debate:

#### **EMAIL**

Students in this class are required to check their official Marquette email account—whatever account D2L sends its emails to—at least once on Wednesday afternoon, in case there are any last-minute announcements or disruptions.

I endeavor to respond to all emails within 24 hours, usually much less.

#### **ACCOMODATIONS**

Students with disabilities who believe they may require accommodations in this course should contact me early in the semester so your learning needs can be appropriately met.

I am of course more than happy to work with you to make sure you are successful in this course and to make this course most accessible for you. However, without documentation, I am limited in what I am able to do. Therefore, in order for me to help you most effectively, I need you to be proactive in contacting Marquette University's Office of Disability Services (located on the fifth floor of the 707 Building).

ODS can be reached by phone at (414) 288-1645 or by email at [ods@marquette.edu](mailto:ods@marquette.edu).

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students are expected to abide by the academic honesty policy outlined in your undergraduate bulletin. I urge you all to examine this material and consult me with any questions you may have about plagiarism or academic integrity *before* it becomes an issue.

Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism. **Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the course.** No exceptions or special dispensations will be made.

Full details of Marquette's academic integrity policy are available on the Internet at <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academichonestypolicy>.

On a personal level, I (like everyone) hate being lied to. Please, do not feel you need to concoct elaborate stories. Simply be honest with me about whatever is going on and we will work it out.

### **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

We all enter this classroom with preexisting political, ethical, philosophical, and intellectual commitments. You are all required to engage the material—but you are absolutely *not* required to agree either with any of the writers we will discuss, or with me, in whole or in part.

### **RESPECT**

This classroom is a community. It is crucial that we treat each other with the appropriate level of courtesy and respect. No one should be made to feel unwelcome here.

Failure to treat other students with the respect they deserve will **severely** negatively impact your class participation grade.

### **FLEXIBILITY**

If it will benefit the class, changes can always be made to course procedures.

### **KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN!**

I want this class to be a meaningful and valuable experience for you. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns about the way things are going, my door is always open.

Beyond that, I want us to work together to build a course of study that grabs and excites you.

#### **We need to decide:**

- \* an attendance policy
- \* writing requirements
- \* how participation should be managed/facilitated/evaluated
- \* a collective culminating experience or group project of some sort
- \* other course policies that seem important

On a lower urgency level, we should figure out if we want to have class the Wednesday before Easter Break, should we cancel a day of class to do a behind-the-scenes tour at the Milwaukee Zoo (I definitely think so), if we should treat the last week of classes as different or special (dare I say, *fun*) in some way, and so on.

#### **Once we've done that, we need to decide:**

- \* major topics surrounding “animals in captivity” you most want to discuss (zoos, pets, animals for food or clothing, animals for medicine, animals for scientific experimentation, animals as workers, animals and the law, etc.)
- \* how many weeks you'd like to spend on each of those major topics
- \* what sorts of texts you'd like to look at (books, articles, scientific papers, journalistic treatments, documentaries, comics, games, political activism, texts for children, and so on)
- \* what sorts of field trips or guest speakers you'd like me to try to arrange, if I can

**PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY (IF YOU WANT IT)**

*Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class as they become necessary.*

Students should come to class prepared to discuss the listed texts or chapters.

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TEXTS</b>
W	Jan. 17	FIRST DAY OF CLASS
W	Jan. 24	John Berger, "Why Look at Animals?" [AR] Randy Malamud, "Zoo Spectatorship" [AR] Octavia E. Butler, "Eye Witness" [Web]
W	Jan. 31	<i>Blackfish</i> (in-class viewing)
W	Feb. 7	<i>Blackfish</i> (discussion) Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson and Susan McCarthy, "Grief, Sadness, and the Bones of Elephants" [AR]
W	Feb. 14	Karen Joy Fowler, <i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i> (first half)
W	Feb. 21	Karen Joy Fowler, <i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i> (second half)
W	Feb. 28	Kathy Rudy, "Where the Wild Things Ought to Be: Sanctuaries, Zoos, and Exotic Pets" [D2L] possible trip to the Milwaukee Zoo or Jo-Dons Farm (or both)
W	Mar. 7	
W	Mar. 14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
W	Mar. 21	
W	Mar. 28	<i>night before Easter Break</i>
W	Apr. 4	
W	Apr. 11	
W	Apr. 18	
W	Apr. 25	
W	May 2	<i>LAST DAY OF CLASS</i>

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(search for "Undergraduate English at Marquette")

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I will also be inviting you to events in the pop culture and pizza series I run periodically during the semester. I hope you can attend!