English 520: Animals in Modern Literature
Fall 2022
Thursday 6:00-9:20pm
[Location]

Instructor: Dr. William Broadway
E-mail: wbroadwa@nmu.edu
Office: 3250 Jamrich Hall
Office hours: Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm

Contacting me

Please feel free to contact me about anything pertaining to the course or any other issues you need to bring to my attention. The best way to reach me is via email. I will respond within 24 hours to any comments, questions, or concerns you may have.

Course description

The focus of this seminar will be depictions of human and nonhuman animals in twentieth- and twenty-first century literature. Over the course of the semester, we will examine a number of texts that explore the various relationships between human and nonhuman forms of life, and we will consider the ways in which these narratives represent what (if anything) distinguishes the human from the animal. Primary texts will be coupled with secondary works of scholarship and criticism. As a theoretical framework, we will draw upon philosophical discourses on animality, reading selections by philosophers ranging from Aristotle and Descartes to Agamben and Derrida. Plus, students will have the opportunity to meet established scholars currently producing exciting new work in the field of literary animal studies.

Learning objectives

- To examine literary texts through close reading, analysis, and interpretation
- To acquire a theoretical and critical vocabulary for discussing animals in literature
- To become familiar with ongoing conversations in literary animal studies
- To conduct academic research and make an original scholarly contribution to the field

Grade distribution

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

Participation	50%
Seminar paper	50%

Required texts

Please purchase these editions of the course texts. All are available at the campus bookstore. Additional supplementary readings are provided.

Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (9780811216715)
Samuel Beckett, *Molloy* (9780802151360)
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (9780140296402)
Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (9781400078776)
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (9780142437346)
Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories* (9780805210576)
Han Kang, *The Vegetarian* (9781101906118)
David Malouf, *An Imaginary Life* (9780679767930)
Virginia Woolf, *Flush* (9780156319522)

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Assigned Reading
9/1	Marianne DeKoven, "Why Animals Now?" Carrie Rohman, *Stalking the Subject* (Chapter 1: "The Animal Among Others") Kari Weil, "A Report on the Animal Turn" Cary Wolfe, "Human, All Too Human: 'Animal Studies' and the Humanities"
9/8	Aristotle, *On the Soul* (Book 2) Descartes, *Discourse on the Method* (Book 5)
9/15	Matthew Calarco, *Thinking Through Animals: Identity, Difference, Indistinction* Jacques Derrida, "The Animal That Therefore I Am (More to Follow)"
9/22	Giorgio Agamben, *The Open* Donna Haraway, *When Species Meet* (Part 1: "We Have Never Been Human")
9/29	James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Selections) **Visiting speaker: Stewart Cole (University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh)**
10/6	Virginia Woolf, *Flush* Derek Ryan, "The Question of the Animal in *Flush*"
10/13	Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* Carrie Rohman, "Revising the Human: Silence, Being, and the Question of the Animal in *Nightwood*"
10/20	Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories* (Selections) Margot Norris, "Kafka's Josefine: The Animal as the Negative Site of Narration" **Visiting speaker: Caroline Hovanec (University of Tampa)**
10/27	Samuel Beckett, *Molloy* Steven Connor, "Beckett's Animals"
11/3	David Malouf, *An Imaginary Life* Gerard Loughlin, "Found in Translation: Ovid, David Malouf and the Werewolf"
11/10	J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* Calina Ciobanu, "Coetzee's Posthumanist Ethics"

11/17	J.M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals* Thomas Pughe, "The Politics of Form in J.M. Coetzee's *The Lives of Animals*"

THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/19 – 11/27

12/1	Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* Eluned Summers-Bremmer, "'Poor Creatures': Ishiguro's and Coetzee's Imaginary Animals"
12/8	Han Kang, *The Vegetarian* Simon Ryle, "Xenoflesh: A Zoepoetics of Meat"

Seminar papers due Friday, December 15 by 11:59pm