Course Description:
By examining the place and meaning of animals in human cultures and histories, this course will explore
the importance of animals in world history. If we do not pay attention to the animals around us, this
course argues, we not only miss the presence of significant historical actors, but miss part of the meaning
of human history itself. We will explore a range of topics, from domestication and hunting, to animals in
medicine, as vectors for disease, in war, and as food. We will also grapple with questions about animal
rights and how the “sixth extinction” might change the future of human history.

The materials for the course come from historians, anthropologists, literary scholars, visual artists, and
writers. From week to week, we will be looking at very different contexts and different kinds of texts. We
will discuss, for example, herding in Mongolia, living with hyenas in Ethiopia, and American obsessions
with plastic pink flamingos; we will consider the classic historical essay “The Great Cat Massacre” about
eighteenth century France and also read an anthropologist’s account of the deer hunt in Wisconsin. This
course is an attempt to answer John Berger’s question, “Why Look at Animals?”

Workload Statement
The campus credit hour policy (UWM Faculty Document #2838) states: “Study leading to one semester
credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours for class contact
in lectures, for laboratories, examinations, tutorials and recitations, and for preparation and study; or a
demonstration by the student of learning equivalent to that established as the expected product of such a
period of study.” This is a three-credit course and you can, therefore, anticipate spending at least 144
hours on preparing for and participating in this course.

Our class meets twice weekly for 75 minutes. Because the Thanksgiving Recess falls on one of our
regular meeting days (Thursday, November 22, 2018), we will have twenty-nine classes together for a
total of 36.25 hours of class time. I expect an average student in this class to spend at least 60 hours over
the course of the semester reading required materials – that is about four hours/week. There are brief
writing assignments to be turned in before most class sessions and students will also be contributing
weekly to an online discussion. You should plan on spending at least an hour/week (15 hours) on these
brief writing assignments. You should also expect to devote at least 8 hours to the short writing
assignment and 20 hours to the longer writing assignment. There will be presentations at the end of the
term and you should anticipate devoting at least 4 hours to these projects. That totals 143.25 hours.

Course Requirements
This seminar emphasizes in-class discussion and both informal and formal writing. There will be brief
writing assignments for most class meetings and two more formal writing assignments: a larger essay (8-
10 pages) due December 5, 2018 and a shorter essay (2-4 pages) due October 24, 2018. 60% of the course
grade will come from the timely and thoughtful completion of the weekly informal writing assignments
and class participation. Both the shorter and longer paper will be given letter grades. The shorter paper
will count for 15% of the final grade and the larger paper will count for 25% of the final grade. All writing assignments are due on the dates and times indicated in the Course Calendar, which will be up-to-date on the course website available on canvas. To log into canvas, follow this link: https://uwm.edu/canvas.

**Brief Writing Assignments:**
There will be a brief writing assignment to be completed for most class sessions. The assignment might be to react to a passage from the reading, it might be to spend a little time looking for additional examples which support or contradict the arguments in the reading, it might be to reflect in writing about how your ideas are changing over the course of our time together. You will upload these assignments to Canvas where I will be able to access them. These assignments will be ungraded, but I will look at them carefully to be certain that you are thinking about the course. While the assignments will be ungraded, I will keep track of your timely completion of them and will use my records as part of my evaluation of your performance in the class. The brief writing assignments should be uploaded by the start of class (2pm) on the days for which they are assigned. These assignments will be graded Complete/Incomplete. “Incomplete” means that either you did not submit the assignment in time or I have judged the effort as perfunctory. You can have 4 incompletes before there will be a negative impact on your grade.

**Formal Writing Assignments:**
There will be two formal assignments in this course. The first is due on October 24, 2018 and will be a critical reflection on one of the texts we have read for the class up to that point. The longer paper will be due on December 5, 2018. I am not requiring that you submit early drafts of your papers to me. However, I am very happy to read and comment on drafts as long as you give me sufficient time – we should make a plan in advance.

**Discussion Forum:**
The course will also have an open discussion forum after each class. Following class (but during the same day), two students who will volunteer at the end of class will post questions to the form. The questions can come from the discussion that day or from the reading; they might also spring from something outside of class which is relevant to our discussions. The rest of the class is required to log in and try to answer the questions. These need to be thoughtful questions and thoughtful responses. “What they said” is not a “thoughtful” response so there may be some advantage to getting into these discussions early! Comments must be submitted by 11:59pm the day after class – Wednesday or Friday.

**Readings:**
Most of the materials we will be reading in this course will be available to you through the course website. In the course schedule (a draft of which is below, but the most current version of which will be on the course website), you will find that I have listed readings for most class sessions. None of the readings is very long. I try to assign about thirty pages for each class session. Some weeks there is a more, but those are weeks where the readings themselves are not too dense or complicated. I would like you to purchase three books: John Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1999), Robert G. W. Kirk’s and Neil Pemberton’s *Leech* (London: Reaktion Books, 2013), and Elizabeth Marshall Thomas’ *The Hidden Life of Life: A Walk through the Reaches of Time* (University Park: Penn State UP, 2018). You should be able to pick up all of these books used or new relatively inexpensively.
Attendance and Participation
Your attendance and active participation in this class will be critical to both your success and the overall success of the course. After two absences, your participation grade (60% of your course grade) will begin to suffer. The participation grade is more than just showing up, however. Participation means attentive contribution to the online and in-class discussions and brief writing assignments and it means treating your classmates with appropriate respect and patience.

Campus Policies:
In accordance with the uniform syllabus policy, I will paraphrase the Supplement to UWM Faculty Document #1895R5: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/1895R5_Uniform_abus_Policy.pdf

1. If you need any accommodation to meet the requirements of this course, please contact me within the first two weeks of the course. (If you become aware of the need for any accommodation after that date, just come to me as quickly as possible so I can help you locate the resources you need.) You can find additional information on the web page of the Accessibility Resource Center at http://uwm.edu/arc. If you have not registered with the ARC and would prefer to discuss your situation with me directly, that is fine with me. I will work with you. I have OCR’d all the online materials; if you need other materials scanned for you so that your computer or other device can read them for you, please just let me know.

2. If you have religious observances that will require you to miss class, please let me know early in the semester. You can find out more about the campus policy on religious observances here: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm.

3. If you are called to active military duty, please let me know as soon as possible. The campus policy on accommodation of students with military duties is located here: http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/

4. An incomplete can only be given when a student has been unable to complete the course “because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond a student’s control.” Please refer to the document: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

5. Discriminatory conduct does not belong in the university. Please attend to this policy: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf

6. Title IX and Sexual Violence. Whether or not you want to make an official report of an incident of sex discrimination, sexual violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, UWM’s Title IX coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu) can connect you to appropriate resources at UWM. For more information, please consult: https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/

7. Academic misconduct. I will quote this one: “Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University.”
http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/"
8. If you would like to make a complaint about this course, you may direct it to the Chair of the History Department, Professor Joseph Rodriguez (joerod@uwm.edu), or the Director of the Honors College, Professor Peter Sands (sands@uwm.edu). For further information, see: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimination_Policy.pdf

9. Grade appeal procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Appeal procedures can be obtained from the Chair of the History Department, Professor Joseph Rodriguez (joerod@uwm.edu), or the Associate Dean of Social Sciences in the College of Letters and Science, Professor James Moyer (jrmoyer@uwm.edu). For further information, please consult: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm

10. If you would like to find resources to advance LGBT+ inclusivity in the learning environment, please consult: http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/

11. Other. The final exam requirement. There is not Final Exam in this course.

**DRAFT Schedule**

(This schedule WILL CHANGE – see the online schedule for an up-to-date version)

**September 4:** Getting to Know Other Animals: Introductions and Orientation

**September 6:** The Viewer and the Viewed: Cockfights

**September 11:** Writing History about Animals

**September 13:** Do Animals have a History?

**September 18:** Why Look at Animals?

**September 20:** Which Animals

**September 25: Must we Talk about Dogs?**

**September 27: A Sociological View**

**October 2: Up Close: Leech**

**October 4: Up Close II: Leech**

**October 9: Living with Hyenas**

**October 11: Living with Hyenas**
Reading: Marcus Baynes-Rock, *Among the Bone Eaters: Encounters with Hyenas in Harar* (University Park: Penn State UP, 2015), 36-57, 83-93, 169-188. Review, as well, the separate file of photographs.

**October 16: Living with Herds and Bees**

**October 18: Let’s Talk about Writing.**
No Reading. Come to class prepared to talk about your short essays.

**October 23: Living with Herds**

**October 24: Short Paper Due (11:59pm)**

**October 25: TBA**

**October 30: Dead**
November 1: Plastic

November 6: Caged
   Reading: I will be giving you a draft of something I am working on.

November 8: Filmed
   Reading: Cynthia Chris, TBD
   Reading: Jonathan Burt, TBD

November 13: Sport and Colonial Shooting
   Reading: George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant,” *Shooting an Elephant and Other Essays* (New York, 1945), 3-12.

November 15: Is Hunting Part of Being Human?

November 20: Opening Weekend

November 22: Thanksgiving Recess

November 27: Coetzee

November 29: Coetzee

December 4: Thomas: The Hidden Life

December 5: Final Essay Due (11:59pm)

December 6: Film: Microcultural Incidents in 10 Zoos
   No Readings, No brief writing assignment

December 11: In Class Presentations

December 13: In Class Presentations