

PHIL 442:001 ETHICS AND ANIMALS FALL 2009 TIME: T-TH, 12:40 - 2:00 PLACE: 314 BESSEY HALL

INSTRUCTOR: PAUL B. THOMPSON **OFFICE:** 526 SOUTH KEDZIE HALL

HOURS: T-TH 9:30-11:30 **E-MAIL:** THOMP649@MSU.EDU

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION: JULIE ECKINGER, 517 432 0317
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OVERVIEW: This course has been designed as an accelerated introduction to current thinking on the nature and basis of human ethical responsibilities to non-human animals. A very large literature on ethics and animals has been created since 1970, as well as a significant body of research on the cognitive capabilities of individuals from many non-human species. In addition, there have been significant changes in standards for many domains of animal use including laboratory research, agriculture, zoos and wildlife. The course will provide an in depth study of several key paradigms for conceptualizing animal ethics, and will offer relatively brief surveys concepts and recent problems in each of the four above mentioned domains. The course does not presume prior coursework or specific reading in philosophy; however, it does require advanced reading and critical reasoning skills. It also presumes self-motivated students who believe that acquiring competency in the literature of animal ethics is an important personal, professional or educational objective.

GRADES: *Undergraduate students* may elect to satisfy the graduate requirements for the class by notifying the instructor with a written and signed letter of intent to do so on or before Oct 1, 2009. Unless such notification is received, grades for undergraduates will be based on the following formula:

90-100	Points = 4.0;	85-89.9	Points = 3.5;	80-84.9
	Points = 3.0;	75-79.9	Points = 2.5;	
70-74.9	Points = 2.0;	65-69.9	Points = 1.5;	60-64.9
	Points = 1.0;	0-59.9	Points = 0.0	

Points may be earned through completing the following assignments:

1. Out of Class Writing Assignments: Three (3) assignments, 1 & 2 worth 5 points each, #3 worth 10 points. Short essays (1 & 2 not more than 2½ pages; 3 not more than 4 pages) will

be assigned one week in advance of the due date. Out of class writing assignments should be typed 12-point, double-spaced and free of grammatical or spelling errors. Due Dates: Sept. 15; Oct. 6; Nov. 24.

2. Mid-term Examinations: One at forty (40) points Oct. 29, 2009. The examination will combine short-essay interpretation questions based on specific passages from assigned readings, and longer essay questions on philosophical themes in the readings. All questions will be taken verbatim from a study sheet that will be distributed at least one week prior to the examination.
3. Final Examination: Forty (40) points. The final examination will combine short-essay interpretation questions based on specific passages from assigned readings, and longer essay questions on philosophical themes in the readings. All questions will be taken verbatim from a study sheet that will be distributed at least one week prior to the examination. The final exam period for this class is Monday, Dec. 15, 2009, 12:45am to 2:45pm.

Graduate students must complete and receive a total grade of 16 or better on the out of class writing assignments. Graduate student course grades will be based on a précis and bibliography of 2-3 pages and a term paper of not less than 15 and not more than 30 pages in length, dealing with a topic to be agreed upon.

Acceptable topics must address the theme of animal ethics and must deal substantively with at least one of the authors included in the syllabus. Students following the graduate student guidelines should schedule an out of class meeting with the instructor prior to Oct. 16, 2009 to discuss possible paper topics. Précis is due Oct. 29, 2009; Final paper is due Dec. 15, 2009.

ATTENDANCE: Attending class sessions and participating in discussions is important. Students who miss six (6) classes will be subject to a penalty of 10 points deducted from their raw score (see above). Students who miss eight (8) or more classes during the semester will receive an "F" (0.0), irrespective of their written work. This policy is intended to accommodate normal illnesses, university sponsored activities, important life events and other excused

absences. If you have special circumstances that will cause you to have more than six (6) excused absences, contact the instructor as soon as practicably possible to determine whether it will be possible to make an exception to the policy.

TEXTS: The following texts have been ordered for this course. All are available in paper. All are required.

PETER SINGER, *PRACTICAL ETHICS*, 2ND ED. CAMBRIDGE, UK: 1993,
CAMBRIDGE U. PRESS

TOM REGAN, *THE CASE FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS*. UPDATED W. NEW PREFACE,
BERKELEY, CA: U. CALIFORNIA PRESS,

BERNARD ROLLIN. *SCIENCE AND ETHICS*. CAMBRIDGE, UK: 2006,
CAMBRIDGE U. PRESS.

JESSICA PEIRCE AND MARC BEKOFF. *WILD JUSTICE: THE MORAL LIVES OF ANIMALS*. CHICAGO: 2009, U. CHICAGO PRESS

READING ASSIGNMENTS: ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION AS THE SEMESTER DEVELOPS. CHECK THE COURSE ANGEL SITE FOR UPDATES.

DATE ASSIGNMENT

9/3/09 Rollin, *Science and Ethics* on Ethics, pp. 31-64

9/8/09 Singer, *Practical Ethics* Prefaces, pp. vii-xiii; Chapters 1 & 2,
pp. 1-54

9/10/09 Singer, *Practical Ethics* Chapter 3, pp. 55-82

9/15/09 Singer, *Practical Ethics* Chapters 4 & 5, pp. 83-134

9/17/09 Singer, *Practical Ethics* Chapters 5 & 6, pp. 185-248

9/22/09 Tom Regan, *Case for Animal Rights* Chapters 4 & 5
pp. 121-194

9/24/09 Tom Regan, *Case for Animal Rights* Chapters 6 & 7
pp. 196-265

9/29/09 Tom Regan, *Case for Animal Rights* Chapter 8 pp. 266-
329

10/1/09 Tom Regan, *Case for Animal Rights* Chapter 9 pp. 330-
398

10/6/09 Regan, "Utilitarianism, Vegetarianism and Animal Rights,"
Singer, "Utilitarianism and Vegetarianism"

10/8/09 James Nelson, "Recent Studies in Animal Ethics" Bekoff
and Pierce, Chapter 2

- 10/13/09 Josephine Paul-Murphy and co-authors, "The Need for a Cross-Species Approach to the Study of Pain"
 Rollin, *Science and Ethics*, Chapter 9, pp 215-246
 Collin Allen, "Animal Pain"
- 10/15/09 Colin Allen and Marc Bekoff, "Animal Consciousness" and Peter Carruthers, "Brute Experience"
- 10/20/07 Dale Jamieson and Marc Bekoff, "Carruthers on Nonconscious Experience"; Peter Carruthers, "Animal Subjectivity" and Howard Eichenbaum; Norbert J. Fortin, Ceren Ergorul, Sean P. Wright and Kara L. Agster, "Episodic recollection in animals: "If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck..."
- 10/22/09 Cora Diamond, "Eating Meat and Eating People"; Kelly Oliver, "What Is Wrong with Animal Rights?"
- 10/27/09 Deleuze and Guattari, pp 256-332 from *A Thousand Plateaus*¹
- 10/29/09 Mid-Term Examination
- 11/3/09 Rollin, Chapter 5 pp 99-128 and Barbara Orland, "Ethical Themes in National Regulations..."
- 11/5/09 Howard Eichenbaum; Norbert J. Fortin, Ceren Ergorul, Sean P. Wright and Kara L. Agster, "Episodic recollection in animals: "If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck..." and David DeGrazia, "The Ethics of Animal Research: What Are the Prospects for Agreement?"
- 11/10/09 Rollin *Ethics and Science* Chapters 6 and 7, pp. 129-184.
- 11/12/09 Bernice Bovenkerk, Frans W A Brom, Babs J Van Den Bergh, "Brave New Birds: The Use of "animal integrity" in animal ethics" and Paul Thompson, "The Opposite of Human Enhancement,"
- 11/17/09 Michael Pollan, "An Animal's Place" and "Power Steer" Jeffery Armstrong, "Sorting Out the Cage Free Dilemma," Peter Singer and Jim Mason, selection from "The Ethics of What We Eat?"

¹ All but a few pages of this selection are currently available in a preview on Google Books. I am therefore making purchase of this source optional. I will note in class that this is a curious and atypical source for the course. However, these passages from one of the 20th century's most difficult books are becoming quite influential in animal studies, and I feel that it is important to have a) some familiarity with them, and b) to see them in their original context.

- 11/19/09 Anna S. Olsson, Christian Gamborg and Peter Sandøe
"Taking Ethics into Account in Farm Animal Breeding: What
can the Breeding Companies Achieve?" and Candace C.
Croney and Susanne T. Millman, The ethical and behavioral
bases for farm animal welfare legislation
- 11/24/09 Bekoff and Peirce, *Wild Justice* Chapters 3-6
- 12/1/09 Michael Hutchins, Brandie Smith and Ruth Allard, "In
Defense of Zoos and Aquariums,;" Dita Wickins-Dražilová, "Zoo
Animal Welfare"
- 12/3/09 Tzachi Zamir, "The Welfare-Based Defense of Zoos,"
Ralph Acampora, "Zoos and Eyes,"
- 12/8/09 Tema Milstein, "Something Tells Me It's All Happening at
the Zoo," Paul Sheehan, "Against the Image,"
- 12/10/09 Last Day of Class: No Assignment
- 12/16/09 FINAL EXAMINATION 12:45–2:45 pm