

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 2268B-001: People and Animals
BRIEF TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2024

Date: July 26, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Hodgetts

Method of delivery: in person; 2 lecture hours per week

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

Our relationships with other animals have shaped the history of our species. This course explores people's interactions with animals, past and present, through the lens of archaeology, biological anthropology, sociocultural anthropology and linguistic anthropology. We will examine how anthropological approaches to these relationships have changed over time.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

No textbook.

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Describe how anthropologists approach the interactions between people and animals within each of the four fields of anthropology.
- 2) Discuss how those approaches have changed over time.
- 3) Reflect critically on your own relationships with animals as culturally constructed by comparing them with those of other groups from different times and places.
- 4) Summarize and critically evaluate anthropological research on human-animal interactions.
- 5) Apply theory and methods in four-field Anthropology to design research on the relationships between people and animals.

Evaluation: [Please note that this is tentative and may change]

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Online Quizzes – based on assigned readings – top 10 of 12 (drop 2 lowest) – 20% (LO 1)

Assignment 1 – Cross-cultural perspectives on an animal species of your choice – Write a 500 word overview comparing and contrasting your own views of a particular species with those documented in an anthropological study of another place/time – 15% (LO 1, 3)

Zoom Group Discussion 1 – Discuss your Assignment 1 response with other students who chose the same animal in order to develop a broader picture of the diversity of relationships with/perceptions of that animal. Submit auto-transcript for evaluation – 5% (LO 1, 3)

Assignment 2 – Twitter (X) thread – Select one of the case studies from weeks 3-7 and create a series of 4 Twitter posts summarizing its theoretical framework, methodology and key findings, and commenting on its greatest strength and/or weakness – 15% (LO 4)

Assignment 3 – Develop a research question that relates closely to the Assignment 2 case study but would allow you to investigate it through a different subfield of anthropology. Outline the methods you would use to address the question. 750 words – 20% (LO 5)

Zoom Group Discussion 2 – Discuss your Assignment 3 response with other students who chose the same case study to develop a fuller appreciation of the ways the subfields of anthropology come together to create a holistic understanding of the human experience. Submit auto-transcript for evaluation – 5% (LO 4, 5)

Final exam – Paragraph responses to questions exploring how anthropological approaches to human-animal relationships have changed over time – 25% (LO 2) [*May switch to a take home exam instead*]