Dr. Stacy Alaimo  
http://www.uta.edu/english/alaimo/ 
Distinguished Teaching Professor 

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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 12:30-2:30 and Thursdays 12:30-1:00 and 5:00-6:00. (Note: although I will usually be in my office during those times, I may have to attend meetings, dissertation defenses, etc. Please email me to confirm that I will be in my office or to arrange an appointment.)

Thursdays: 6-8:50. Official Location: Preston Hall 304

Course Description: This course will introduce the most significant and compelling questions in the emerging interdisciplinary field of Animal Studies by way of theory, literature, film, and art. We will read essential works of philosophy, theory and cultural studies along with a wide range of literature, including "young adult" novels, science fiction, poetry, and novels that take animal perspectives seriously. Readings will include: Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald, The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings; Donna Haraway, Primate Visions: Gender, Race and Nature in the World of Modern Science; Jacques Derrida, The Animal that Therefore I am; Cary Wolfe, What is Posthumanism?; Nicole Shukin, Animal Capital: Rendering Life in Biopolitical Times; Anna Sewell, Black Beauty; Jack London, Call of the Wild; Herman Melville, Moby Dick; Barbara Gowdy, The White Bone; Eva Hornung, Dog Boy; Philip K. Dick, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Margaret Atwood, Oryx and Crake; Becoming Animal, Contemporary Art in
the Animal Kingdom, ed. Nato Thompson. Students will have the opportunity to attend the Hermanns lectures and hear Greg Garrard, Peggy McCracken, Cary Wolfe, and Neill Matheson speak on animal studies! (We will cancel one class period to compensate for attendance at the Hermanns lectures.)

Required Texts:
Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald, The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings
Donna Haraway, Primate Visions: Gender, Race and Nature in the World of Modern Science
Jacques Derrida, The Animal that Therefore I am
Cary Wolfe, What is Posthumanism?
Nicole Shukin, Animal Capital: Rendering Life in Biopolitical Times
Anna Sewell, Black Beauty  (Puffin classics)
Jack London, Call of the Wild (Puffin classics)
Herman Melville, Moby Dick (hardcover, Modern Library 1992)
Barbara Gowdy, The White Bone
Eva Hornung, Dog Boy  [Buy used on Amazon, etc. or download on Kindle]
Philip K. Dick, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
Margaret Atwood, Oryx and Crake
Becoming Animal, Contemporary Art in the Animal Kingdom, Nato Thompson

Required Films:
You need to rent or purchase Sharkwater (Rob Stewart 2006).  The film Being Caribou is available free here: http://www.beingcaribou.com/necessaryjourneys/film.html#BC.

NOTE: PDFs of many of the readings will be available at  MavSpace: https://mavspace.uta.edu/xythoswfs/webview/ xy-2624181_1
Or at Blackboard: https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login/
You may print out the readings yourself or you may bring electronic versions to class. You must have some annotated version of the readings to work with in class, however. Since I do not usually allow computers in class, please do not open up any other files, email, or internet access during class time—just the electronic versions of the articles.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes
1. Students should develop a solid understanding of a range of theories, concepts, and questions pertaining to cross-disciplinary animal studies  They should comprehend the history, meaning, and significance of the topics covered in the class.
2. Students should write and speak, in an informed manner, about the readings and/or films for each week, demonstrating their ability to compare and contrast, evaluate, and apply the theories, arguments, concepts, and frameworks. Students should be able to analyze and interpret the texts and films in a way that is illuminating for the central questions of the class.
3. Students should write an original seminar paper, modeled after a scholarly article, which puts forth an original thesis about a topic or question pertaining to the animal studies. This paper will be based on independent research even though it will be pertinent to the class. They should present a short version of this paper at the final class.
Course Requirements
Participation, two presentations: 15%
Weekly papers: 25%
Seminar paper (including presentation of seminar paper): 60%
Attendance at two Hermanns talks, Friday March 30th and a weekly paper about the talks will be required.
You must complete all the required work in order to obtain credit for the course.

Eight short response papers (3 double-spaced typed, stapled pages) will be required. The paper on the Hermanns talks may count as one of these 8 papers. These will be due at the beginning of class each week (starting with week two) and will be handed in again, gathered together in a folder, at the final class period. These papers are not meant to be fully fleshed out arguments or analyses. Instead, these papers should compare and contrast the readings for the week, remark upon the most significant ideas, evaluate the merits and limitations of particular arguments and theoretical frameworks, and raise significant and provocative questions. The response papers will receive immediate comments but not grades; these papers will be graded in a portfolio manner, along with your presentation and participation, at the end of the course. (If the papers are C, D, or F papers, they will receive those grades, however.)

Two 15-minute presentations, which you will sign up for, will also be required. (A written version of your presentation can be handed in as that week's required paper.) One of these presentations will be an Analysis/Interpretation of the assigned reading and one will be a Summary/Analysis of another text relevant to that week's discussion.

One 25-page seminar paper and an oral presentation of an abstract of that paper will be due the final class period. These papers should demonstrate an understanding and engagement with theoretical issues we have discussed in the course. The paper must include a one-page abstract.
Ph.D. students will also be required to attach a final page explaining how they would revise the paper for publication and listing five journals to which they would submit the paper. They should also list conferences and panel topics that would be a good fit for this paper. (Ideally, the paper will be presented at a conference and then be revised for publication.)

Mechanics: All papers must be “typed,” stapled, and have a significant title. Please do NOT use plastic folders or paperclips for your paper—a staple is sufficient. All papers are due at the very beginning of the class. I never accept faxed papers or emailed papers. Be sure to keep an extra copy of your paper. Please Note: plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished to the full extent.

Participation/Attendance
Your active, informed participation is crucial to the success of the course. Carefully prepare for each class period by doing the reading in a rigorous and inquisitive manner. Every day that you come to class you should have something valuable to say. I will grade on actual
participation, rather than on mere attendance. However, if you miss class two or more times, I will lower your course grade and if you miss more than that you will fail the course.

**Recommended**: Spend some time browsing through some of the journals and websites listed below. Find scholars, essays, texts, and topics that will be particularly pertinent for your interests and projects.

**JOURNALS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**
- Humanimalia: [http://www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/](http://www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/)
- Society and Animals: [http://www.brill.nl/society-animals](http://www.brill.nl/society-animals)
- ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment), [http://www.asle.org/](http://www.asle.org/)
- Environmental Ethics
- Ethics and Environment
- Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences: [http://aess.info/](http://aess.info/);
- SLSA: Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts; journal *Configurations*
- FB Open Groups: Institute for Critical Animal Studies and Animal Studies at Michigan State University

**BIBLIOGRAPHIES, DEFINITIONS, RESOURCES**
- Resources: Animality Studies at CSU: [http://animalitystudies.colostate.edu/resources.htm](http://animalitystudies.colostate.edu/resources.htm)
- Cary Wolfe, on “Posthumanities” [http://www.carywolfe.com/post_about.html](http://www.carywolfe.com/post_about.html)

I would strongly recommend that all graduate students read Calvin Thomas’ “Moments of

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Official UTA Policies:

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2) [NOTE FROM DR. ALAIMO: PLAGIARISM IS INEXCUSABLE AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL; I WILL CERTAINLY PUNISH PLAGIARISM TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.]

Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

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Minimal standards for classroom etiquette:

1. TURN OFF all pagers, beepers, cell phones and other electronic devices! You may not have these devices turned on while in class. You may not text message or read email or engage in any other electronic activities during class. The only exception is if you choose to access the course readings electronically.

2. Arrive to class ON TIME. It is distracting to both the professor and the students to have someone come in late. If you come in late, you will be marked absent.

3. Arrive to class PREPARED to discuss the texts and materials in an informed manner. You are expected to make a substantial contribution to every class.

4. Treat your classmates with RESPECT. Learn to disagree without being disagreeable. We will often discuss controversial, volatile topics, so everyone needs to learn how to disagree with someone’s views, beliefs, or perspectives while maintaining a sense of civility.
Unless otherwise noted, the readings are either in the assigned books or available as PDFs in our “Grad Animals” MavSpace folder or the Blackboard shell for our course.

**AR= The Animals Reader**

### Introductions: Animal Studies and Animal Ethics

**Week One. January 19th.** Please read these essays before coming to class:

**Animal Studies in the news:**
- “Animal Studies Beyond Biology”
- “Animal Studies and Humanities Merge”
  http://www.globalanimal.org/2012/01/05/animal-studies-is-it-time-to-move-on-to-the-post-humanities/62311/
- “Animal Studies Cross Campus to Lecture Hall”

Please read the following short pieces by Michelle de Montaigne, René Descartes, Jeremy Bentham, and Marjorie Speigel, in *The Animals Reader* [AR] before coming to class, and these two longer essays, as well: Tom Regan, “The Rights of Humans and Other Animals” AR; Martha Nussbaum, “The Moral Status of Animals” AR.

### Animal Sentiment, Animal Advocacy, Animal Ethics

**Week Two. January 26.**

Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*

Coral Lansbury, “The Brown Dog Riots of 1907,” in AR.

Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*

Yi-Fu-Tuan, “Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection” in AR.

### Moby Dick

**Week Three. February 2.** Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

Lawrence Buell, “Global Commons as Resource and as Icon: Imagining Oceans and Whales” [PDF]; Phillip Armstrong, “Leviathan as a Skein of Networks: Translations of Nature an Culture in Moby-Dick,” [PDF].
Biopolitics, Posthuman Ethics

Week Four February 9.
Nicole Shukin, Animal Capital: Rendering Life in Biopolitical Times


Week Six. February 23. Special Guest Instructor: Matthew Lerberg. Watch these two films before class: Sharkwater and Being Caribou. Read Cary Wolfe, “Before the Law” [PDF].

Animal Minds, Animal Cultures, Animal Worlds


March 12-16: SPRING BREAK


Week Ten. March 29.
Read the following essays by scholars presenting at the Hermanns: Peggy McCracken, “Translation and Animals,” “The Animal Turn;” Cary Wolfe, “Before the Law;” Neill Matheson, "Thoreau's Gramatica Parda: Conjugating Race and Nature;” " Outsider Animals” from Adrian Franklin’s *Animal Nation* for Greg Garrard. (See also Garrard’s new essay on Animals for Ecocriticism.)

**Friday March 30th: Hermanns Lecture Series from 11-4.** All graduate students in this course will be required to attend at least two talks. Graduate students who are pursuing or intend to pursue a PhD should attend all Hermanns talks. We are lucky to have these superb scholars contribute to this graduate seminar!

**Human/Animal Boundaries, Crossings, and Kinships**

Week Eleven. April 5th
No class. Work on seminar papers.

Week Twelve. April 12.
Donna Haraway, *Primate Visions: Gender, Race and Nature in the World of Modern Science* [Chapters to be announced.]

Week Thirteen. April 19.
Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake*
Mason and Finelli, “Brave New Farm” in AR


**Seminar Papers and Presentations**

Week Fifteen. May 3rd
**Presentations of Seminar Papers.**
Course Evaluations will be done electronically.
**Seminar Papers due in my English Department mailbox (2nd floor Carlisle) Monday May 7th by 4:30 pm.** [Remember to include all commented-upon weekly papers as well, in a folder.]