Sociology of Animals

100% Online

Semester: Summer 8-week session – June 1 to July 24, 2020

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD
Office: HH 204B
Office Hours: Email for a virtual appointment.
Contact: roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu

Course Description: This course is a study of non-human animals and their place in human society. Together we will explore why some animals are frightening while others are considered family. Course materials will focus on theories of the self and interaction, as well as symbols and culture, in order to shed light on the relationship between humans and nonhuman animals. Topics to be covered include the animal mind, animals as food, service animals, emotional support animals, animals and the law, and animals in popular culture.

Course objectives: By the conclusion of this course…
- Students will recognize the social construction of boundaries drawn around animal categories and between humans and nonhuman animals.
- Students will interrogate the relationship between humans, science, and nonhuman animals.
- Students will discuss various issues involving animals, including animal welfare, animals in captivity, service animals, animals as symbols, and animals as food.
- Students will think critically about animal welfare and human-animal interactions.
- Students will be able to connect human treatment of nonhuman animals with our treatment of other humans.
- Students will be able to apply social theory to the real world using the empirical context of humans and nonhuman animals.

Required reading materials:
- *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why it’s so hard to think straight about animals* (2010), by Hal Herzog

Other materials listed on the syllabus will be available on Canvas or through the course E-Reserve page. E-Res Password: *primate*
Mode of instruction and course access: This course is 100% online and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com]. CANVAS is where you will find all information related to this course, including assignments, student grades, and handouts. Monitor CANVAS every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change due to unforeseen circumstances (ex: network outage).

Contacting your professor:

The best way to contact me is through email (roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 9 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. The best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as “Professor Schoen” or “Dr. Schoen,” pronounced SHANE.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.
Course Requirements

**Discussion Boards** – Participation on graded discussion boards is imperative and will constitute ~28% of your grade, or a total of 110 points. Your primary/initial postings will address my weekly discussion question(s) and should be made by midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers’ primary posts. Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday. Late posts will not receive credit. See detailed instructions on Canvas in the Course Orientation module.

**Quizzes** - Students will take 5 quizzes throughout the course. Quizzes are each worth 25 points, or 125 points in total. Quizzes will cover the readings and other material assigned for the same week. On weeks when you have a quiz, you should first complete the readings and take notes. Prepare and manage your time wisely; you will not be able to re-take a quiz, nor can you re-open a quiz once you have started it. Quizzes will be available from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. There are no makeup quizzes.

**Short Essays** - In order to reflect on course materials in a space that is separate from peer discussions, students will compose three short essays that reflect on the weekly topic. These essays will be private (i.e. can only be viewed by the student and instructor) and are your chance to analyze and reflect on a topic from a prompt. Essays should be approximately 700-900 words and should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have engaged in thoughtful consideration of the themes contained within. Essays are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM CST. Each one is worth 30 points, for a total of 90 points.

**Annotated Bibliography** - Students will produce one annotated bibliography on a topic of their choice, due via Canvas on July 22nd (11:59 PM CST). Detailed instructions are posted to Canvas.

**Summary Table of Course Assessment:**

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<th>1 @ 10 pts</th>
<th>5 @ 20 pts</th>
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Posting of Grades:
- All student grades will be posted using the Canvas grade book and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will usually be posted within 7 days of due dates. Some assignments could require more time to read through and give individualized feedback. For such assessments, you may need to be patient.

Course Schedule
Numbered chapters are from the Moorehead reader, *Animals in Human Society*. Readings labeled “eRes” are available on the course E-Reserves page.

Week 1. June 1-7 How we think, talk, and write about nonhuman animals
Read:
- Beasts and Boundaries: An Introduction to Animals in Sociology, Science, and Society, by Pru Hobson-West
- Herzog – Introduction and Anthrozoology (pgs. 1-36)
- Other materials in the week 1 module

Complete discussion board 1 and quiz 1

Week 2. June 8-14 Creating boundaries and animal categories
Read:
- Chapter 1: Ideology, Subjectivity and Mind in Animal Models and Human Infant Research, by Jessica Bell
- Chapter 2: Institutionalizing Animal “Subject” Protection in Research, by Erin M. Evans
- Herzog – The Importance of Being “Cute” (pg.37-66)

Complete discussion board 2 and quiz 2.
Week 3.  
**June 15-21**  
The not-so-secret life of pets

Read:
- Herzog - Pet-O-Philia (pg. 67-96)
- Herzog – Friends, Foes, and Fashion Statements (pg. 97-128)
- Chapter 3: Considering the Emotional Support Animal: The “Pharmaceuticalization” of Companion Animals, by Andrea Laurent-Simpson
- Chapter 4: Human Supremacy, Post-Speciesist Ideology, and the Case for Anti-Colonialist Veganism, by Corey Wrenn

Complete short essay #1 and quiz 3

Week 4.  
**June 22-28**  
The struggle is real: animal survival in a human world

Read:
- Chapter 5: Anthropocentrism and the Issues Facing Nonhuman Animals, by Andrew Woodhall
- Herzog – “Prom Queen Kills First Deer” (pg. 129-148)
- Herzog – In the Eyes of the Beholder (pg. 149-174)
- Herzog – Delicious, Dangerous, Disgusting, and Dead (pg. 175 – 204)

Complete discussion board 3 and quiz 4

Week 5.  
**June 29 - July 5**  
Animals and the complexity of human morality

Read:
- Herzog – The Moral Status of Mice (pg. 204 – 236)
- Herzog – The Cats in Our Houses, the Cows on Our Plates (pg. 237-262)
- Herzog – The Carnivorous Yahoo Within Ourselves (pg. 263-279)

Complete discussion board 4 and short essay #2
Week 6.  July 6-12  Animals in culture and art

Read:

- Chapter 6: Sea Otter Aesthetics in Popular Culture, by Richard Ravalli
- Chapter 7: Media Representations of Animals in Urban Canada, by Linda Kalof, Cameron Thomas Whitley, & Jessica Bell
- “Tigers in Fiction” by Sujit Mukherjee
- Selections from *The White Tiger and Other Stories*, edited by R. Bond

Complete discussion board 5 and short essay #3

Week 7.  July 13-19  Language, communication, and the law

Read:

- Chapter 8: Rationalizing Natural Horsemanship: Bridging the Interspecies (and Subcultural) Divide through the Language of Equus, by Shawn McEntee
- Chapter 9: “Something to See Here” Looking at Road-killing and Road-killed Animals, by Stephen Vrla
- Chapter 10: Animals and the Law: Maintenance of the Status Quo, by Stuart M. Collis

Complete discussion board 6 and quiz 5

Week 8.  July 20-24

Complete Annotated bibliography by July 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 11:59 PM

**Other Important Dates:**

June 8, 2020 Deadline to Drop 8-week Classes with No Record

July 3, 2020 Last Day to Apply for Summer Graduation

July 10, 2020 Deadline to Drop 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)

July 24, 2020 Classes End for 8-Week Session

July 28, 2020 Final Grades Posted

August 7, 2020 Deadline to apply for tuition rebate for August graduates
Course and University Policies, Procedures, and Resources

Late and Makeup Assignments

**Late assignments** will receive a deduction of 5% of the grade per day it is late. Please pay attention to deadlines and work ahead to minimize the risk that your work will be late.

A student may only make up an exam if there is illness, injury, or another documented excuse. If a student misses an exam due to illness, injury, something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor’s note, police report, etc), 2. Notify Dr. Schoen as soon as possible of intent to take a make-up exam, and 3. Prepare to take the make-up exam within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero for that exam. If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade.

Warrior Shield

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

**Faculty cannot drop students**; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.
Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the Student Conduct process, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a report, [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs’ Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].
Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Summer 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This summer, the UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays starting June 27th and ending July 18th.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!
Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WCOnline [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our Library website [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don’t agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don’t be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].
Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2]. Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person’s behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

Copyright Notice.

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