

## **Animal Geographies GEOG 3860**

Department of Environment and Geography

*Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources*

### **General Details**

- Instructor: Dr. Mary Benbow.
- Office: 444 Wallace Building
- Telephone: 474 8591
- E-mail: benbow@cc.umanitoba.ca
- Web Page: <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~benbow/>
- Office hours: by appointment.
- Lectures: 1:00 to 2:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Lecture Room: 315 Wallace)
- Required Readings: A collection of readings for the course is available in the bookstore. Students are required to read and take notes prior to each class.

### **Course Description**

This course will present a variety of topics concerning the interactions between humans and animals, how humans influence and use animals, and the many roles that animals play in human lives and environments. Animal Geographies lies at a meeting point between physical and human geography, where we must consider the blurring of boundaries between what it means to be animal or human, and the implications for how animals are used or represented. Each class meeting will include a wide variety of teaching methods and experiences the purpose of which is to present an equally wide variety of perspectives, beliefs and points of view.

It is important to note that all students must give due consideration to perspectives with which they are not only unfamiliar but also views with which they disagree. This balanced perspective is intended *“to shed light not heat”* on animal geographies.

### **Course Objectives**

- To develop an understanding of animal geographies, notably the relationships and interactions between animals and humans
- To describe and explain the environmental, social and cultural implications for how animals are used or represented
- To assess the meanings we ascribe to animals and animal issues
- To actively become engaged in and aware of our everyday lives and consequently observe the roles of animals.
- To apply critical thinking, active reading and writing skills to the evaluation of animal geographies
- To utilize a wide variety of learning techniques and materials and in so doing develop as more flexible and effective learners

## The Web Site

My web site has a variety of materials including the course outline, a more detailed class schedule, reading list and web links.

## Course Work

- **Learning Journal** – worth 60% of final course grade. Undertake at least one “Self directed work” exercise per week from the class schedule. Students should consult with the instructor to assess the development of the learning journal, and students should be ready to share their experiences of self-directed work during class. The learning journal is divided into two stages so that it is submitted for grading and comment half way through the course and then again at the end of the course. The deadline for stage 1 is Thursday October 1st and is worth 20%; the deadline for stage 2 is Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and is worth the remaining 40%. Students are strongly encouraged to add to their entries as new ideas and information are covered in the course and especially using the comments after the first grading. *Late submissions will not be accepted without permission prior to the submission date and in person.*
- **Final Examination** – worth 40% of final course grade. The exam is scheduled in the final exam period and consists of 6 questions of which students may attempt 2. The duration of the exam is 2 hours; example questions will be provided during the course.

## What Does The Grade Mean?

A+ = 90% and over; A = 80 - 89%; B+ = 70 - 74%; B = 60 - 64%; B- = 50 - 59%; C+ = 40 - 49%; C = 30 - 39%; C- = 20 - 29%; D+ = 10 - 19%; D = 0 - 9%; F = 49% or less

## What If Something Goes Wrong?

If you miss a deadline, you must provide written proof of either illness or compassionate distress (e.g. a doctor's certificate) in order to be granted an extension. You must inform the instructor promptly and the proof must be presented within 7 working days. If you cannot take the final examination due to illness or compassionate distress you must make arrangements with your own Faculty office.

## Plagiarism & Cheating

Unfortunately, every year people are found to be cheating in their course work and exams at the University of Manitoba. Please don't - the penalties are severe.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism and cheating and examination impersonation in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Further details can be found at [http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/cheating\\_plagiarism\\_fraud.html](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html) (the Student Advocacy web page).

### **Penalties for Plagiarism**

The common penalty for plagiarism in a written assignment, test or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or from all courses taught in a Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

### **What Is The VW Date?**

The VW date (Voluntary Withdrawal date) is the last date for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty. So if you find a course just is not right for you, you can withdraw but you must do so before the VW date. For this course, it is Wednesday November 18th, 2015.

### **Class Schedule (subject to change) and Important Dates**

- Thursday September 10 – Introduction to the course
- Tuesday September 15 – Brief Guide to Animal Geographies
- Thursday September 17 – The History of Animal Geographies
- Tuesday September 22 – Taxidermy: The Basics
- Thursday September 24 – Carl Akeley
- Tuesday September 29 – Hunting and Sustainability
- Thursday October 1 – Animal Domestication
- Tuesday October 6 – Farmed Animals and Food
- Thursday October 8 – Animal Rights: What is an animal?
- Tuesday October 13 – Animal Rights Issues
- Thursday October 15 – Animal Intelligence and Animal Emotions
- Tuesday October 20 – Representing the Animal: Activists, Advocates, Crusaders
- Thursday October 22 – Pets and Service Animals
- Tuesday October 27 – Children and Animals
- Thursday October 29 – Exotic Pets and the Illegal Animal Trade
- Tuesday November 3 – Wildlife Watching
- Thursday November 5 – Gorilla Tourism in Uganda
- Tuesday November 10 – Animals we Love to Hate
- Thursday November 12 – Introduced Species
- Tuesday November 17 – Endangered and Extinct Animals
- Thursday November 19 – History and Development of Zoos
- Tuesday November 24 – Aquariums and the Story of Seaworld
- Thursday November 26 – Conservation and Research at Zoos
- Tuesday December 1 – Modern Zoos and the Issues they Face
- Thursday December 3 – Course Review
- Tuesday December 8 – Spare Class

**Additional Dates – Winter Term 2015**

- Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> – Labour Day
- Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> – Term Begins
- Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving
- Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance
- Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup> – Voluntary Withdrawal Date
- Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> – Term Ends
- Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Final Exam Period