

**ANIMALS & ETHICS**  
PHIL308K — Fall 2013 online

Instructor: John Holliday  
Office: Skinner 1118A  
Office Hours: M 3:30 – 4:30

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS**

The practice of using animals as a means is deeply entrenched in many cultures, including ours. We eat them, fashion them into clothing, and test our newest medicines and cosmetic products on them. But should we do these things? In this course, we will examine this question, from the beginnings of its debate in philosophy to recent social and political movements surrounding it. The ultimate goal of the course is for you to understand what moral obligations we might have to animals, if any, and to come to your own informed position on this issue.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Armstrong, Susan J. and Richard G. Botzler, editors. (2008) *The Animal Ethics Reader*, 2nd edition. New York, NY: Routledge.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Grade Percentage</b>
Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Short Paper 1	20%
Short Paper 2	20%
Final Paper	40%

**PARTICIPATION**

Since the business of philosophy is understanding and engaging in arguments, discussion is absolutely crucial. Each week you are required to post at least two substantive questions or comments that either begin or continue a discussion thread on the course Facebook page pertaining to lecture or the readings for the week (where substantive just means anything that contributes something new to the discussion, however small of a point it may be). One of these posts must be made before Thursday; the other post must be made by the end of the week. If you meet these requirements throughout the entire course, you will receive 100% for the participation course requirement. For every week you don't meet these requirements, your participation grade will be lowered 10%.

**QUIZZES**

Each Friday at 12:00 p.m. a True/False, 5-question quiz will be posted on the course ELMS site. It will concern only the material covered in the past week (in both lectures and the readings). You will have till 12:00 p.m. Saturday to take the quiz, after which the quiz will no longer be accessible. Once you access a quiz, you will have five minutes to complete it. Once you exit a quiz, you will not be able to access it again. While taking the quiz, you may use the text and your notes, but you may not consult with anyone.

## PAPERS

The short papers are each 700–1000 words (2–3 pages) and will be in response to prompts released one week before the papers' due dates. The final paper is 2000–3000 words (6–9 pages), and though it must engage in a debate covered in the course readings (i.e. argue for some substantive position or thesis), which one is up to you. So as we work through the material, begin to consider what topic you would like to write on. Though you may use outside academic sources for the final paper, it is perfectly fine to limit your sources to what we read in the course. However, if you do choose to use outside sources, I ask that you use no more than two. All papers must be submitted on ELMS. Note: late papers will be accepted, but for every day a paper is late, the paper will be penalized by one-third of a full letter grade.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Grades for all course requirements will be calculated in terms of raw percentages. Any course requirement not submitted will receive 0%. Final grades for the course will then be calculated as follows:

<b>%</b>	97	93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	55
<b>letter</b>	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Note: undergraduate grades at the University of Maryland have recently roughly followed the following distribution:

A: ±45%      B: ±30%      C: ±15%      Other (D, F, W): ±10%

This distribution will be considered when assigning final grades. Once grades for all course requirements have been determined, the instructor reserves the right to make adjustments before submitting final grades to the university. In other words, the instructor reserves the right to curve grades for the course.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to comply with the University of Maryland *Code of Academic Integrity*. Any violations of this *Code* will be confronted and referred to the Student Honor Council. As defined by the *Code*, “any of the following acts, when committed by a student, shall constitute academic dishonesty: (a) CHEATING: intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. (b) FABRICATION: intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. (c) FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this Code. (d) PLAGIARISM: intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise” (1). For more information on the *Code* or the Honor Council, visit <http://shc.umd.edu>.

## SPECIAL NEEDS & SITUATIONS

If you require accommodations due to a disability, please notify me and contact the University's Disability Support Service (<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>). In order to receive disability-related accommodations, you must provide appropriate documentation. If you are having difficulty keeping up with the academic demands of this course, contact the University's Learning Assistance Service (<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/>). Their services are free to UMD students.

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are unable to meet the deadlines of any course requirements due to religious observances, you are required to notify me of this *in advance*. If you are unable to meet the deadlines of any course requirements due to medical reasons, a note signed by a health care professional documenting the date of a medical appointment or time during which illness prevented the completion of course requirements must be scanned and sent to me electronically. If you are unable to meet the deadlines of any of the course requirements due to personal reasons, speak to me as soon as possible (some form of documentation will be required).

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

NOTE: all lectures will be posted on ELMS and Facebook by 12:00 p.m. on the date listed.

COURSE INTRODUCTION	
T 9/3	ELMS & Facebook

ANIMAL WELFARE	
Th 9/5	LECTURE I Singer, "Practical Ethics" (4)
T 9/10	LECTURE II Rachels, "The Basic Argument for Vegetarianism" (32)
Th 9/12	LECTURE III Rollin, "Animal Pain" (15) Varner, "How Facts Matter" (16)
F 9/13	<b>Quiz 1</b>

ANIMAL RIGHTS	
T 9/17	LECTURE I Regan, "The Case For Animal Rights" (1)
Th 9/19	LECTURE II Cohen, "Reply to Tom Regan" (2) Cavalieri, "Are Human Rights Human" (3)
F 9/20	<b>Quiz 2</b>
T 9/24	LECTURE III Donovan, "Feminism and the Treatment of Animals" (5) Clement, "The Ethic of Care and the Problem of Wild Animals" (58)

EATING MEAT	
Th 9/26	LECTURE I DeGrazia, "Meat-Eating" (25) Grandin, "A Major Change" (27)
F 9/27	<b>Quiz 3</b>

T 10/1	LECTURE II Rollin, "The Ethical Imperative to Control Pain and Suffering in Farm Animals" (31)
Th 10/3	LECTURE III Davis, "The Least Harm Principle" (30) George, "A Paradox of Ethical Vegetarianism" (34)
F 10/4	<b>Quiz 4</b>
T 10/8	LECTURE IV Adams, "The Rape of Animals, the Butchering of Women" (33) Appleby, "Food Prices and Animal Welfare" (28)

ANIMAL CAPACITIES	
Th 10/10	LECTURE I Mendel and Paul, "Consciousness, Emotion and Animal Welfare" (8)
F 10/11	<b>Quiz 5</b>
M 10/14	<b>Short Paper 1 Due — 12:00 p.m.</b>
T 10/15	LECTURE II Mitchell, "Anthropomorphism and Cross-Species Modeling" (10) Dennett, "Animal Consciousness" (12)

ANIMAL RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION	
Th 10/17	LECTURE I Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights" (39) Birke, "Who—or What—Are the Rats (and Mice) in the Laboratory?" (42)
F 10/18	<b>Quiz 6</b>
T 10/22	LECTURE II Brody, "Defending Animal Research" (41)
Th 10/24	LECTURE III DeGrazia, "The Ethics of Animal Research" (40)
F 10/25	<b>Quiz 7</b>

ZOOS & AQUARIUMS	
T 10/29	LECTURE I Jamieson, "Against Zoos" (66) Eaton, "Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity" (64)
Th 10/31	LECTURE II Acampora, "Zoos and Eyes" (65) Hutchins et al., "In Defense of Zoos and Aquariums" (67)
F 11/1	<b>Quiz 8</b>
T 11/5	LECTURE III Lindburg, "Zoos and the Rights of Animals" (68)

PETS	
Th 11/7	LECTURE I Rollin and Rollin, "Dogmaticisms and Catechisms" (71) Serpell et al., "The Welfare of Assistance and Therapy Animals" (76) Leigh and Geyer, "The Miracle of Life" (78)
F 11/8	<b>Quiz 9</b>
M 11/11	<b>Short Paper 2 Due — 12:00 p.m.</b>

KILLING ANIMALS	
T 11/12	LECTURE I Kaldewaij, "Animals and the Harm of Death" (7) Cavalieri, "Whales as Persons" (24)
Th 11/14	LECTURE II Palmer, "Killing Animals in Animal Shelters" (77)
F 11/15	<b>Quiz 10</b>
T 11/19	LECTURE III Kheel, "The Killing Game" (60)
Th 11/21	LECTURE IV Gunn, "Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting" (61)
F 11/22	<b>Quiz 11</b>

THANKSGIVING	
T 11/26	<i>Food, Inc.</i>

LAW	
T 12/3	LECTURE I Wise, "A Great Shout" (79) Posner, "Book Review: <i>Rattling the Cage</i> " (80) Epstein, "The Dangerous Claims of the Animal Rights Movement" (81)

ACTIVISM	
Th 12/5	LECTURE I Regan, "Understanding Animal Rights Violence" (84) Dillard, "Civil Disobedience" (85)
F 12/6	<b>Quiz 12</b>

WRAP-UP	
T 12/10	WRAP-UP LECTURE
Th 12/12	Discuss final papers online
M 12/16	<b>Final Paper Due — 12:00 p.m.</b>