

PHIL2042 Animal Ethics, Animal Minds

Semester 2, 2023-2024

Module Outline

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Heather Browning

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Avenue Campus Room 1029

Advice and Feedback Hours: Tuesday 12-1 (on Teams); Friday 3-4 (on Teams and in person)

Timetable:

Classes are scheduled for Monday, 1-2pm in room 100/5015 and Friday, 1-3pm in room 65/1173).

N.B. Because of the bank holiday in Week 11 (6th May), the 1-hour lecture for this date will instead be held during Revision Week in Week 12 (13th May), Room 100/5015.

Overview:

Human treatment of animals has always been a major ethical question, and one that is gaining increasing public attention. We use and interact with animals in a variety of contexts that can have a significant impact on their lives and wellbeing. This module examines the ethical and scientific philosophical issues raised in relation to animals. It considers, amongst other questions, what moral status animals have, how we can study their cognition and emotions, and what kinds of behaviour towards them might be justified.

Assessment:

The assessment tasks provide you with an opportunity to apply what you have learnt in the module. Your final mark will be based on your performance in:

Formative Assessment:

Group practice presentation (optional but strongly encouraged) – in person at a time arranged with the module lecturer.

Summative Assessment:

Essay [1,500 words] (60%) – submission via Turnitin on Blackboard

Group presentation (40%) – in person during class hours as scheduled by the module lecturer.

Referral (resit):

Timed assignment (100%)

Deadlines for assessment tasks are given below under ‘Important Dates’.

Feedback:

Feedback may be written or verbal. You will receive:

- Verbal feedback on your practice presentation
- Written feedback on your presentation
- Written comments on your essay
- Verbal feedback on your contributions in class
- Opportunity for further discussion with the module coordinator during their advice and feedback hours or by appointment
- Verbal feedback on your assessments or any other aspect of your performance in one-to-one voluntary meetings with the module coordinator during Feedback Week

Active participation in class will also help you assess how you are progressing.

For guidance and further information concerning assessed work, feedback and marking criteria, please see the Philosophy Student Handbook, available on the Humanities hub on blackboard.

Attendance:

Effective teaching and learning in Higher Education is a collaborative endeavour. For a statement of what you can expect from us and we from you, see the Philosophy Student Handbook. Note in particular:

- We expect you to attend and prepare for all teaching sessions. Success at degree level assumes both attendance and effective and appropriate preparation (for instance, reading assigned material). In extreme cases, you may be asked to leave a class if it is judged that your lack of preparation is disadvantaging other students.
- We expect you to treat staff and fellow students in a professional and courteous manner in all dealings with them. This includes, but is not limited to, treating the views of peers with respect during debate and giving your full attention during classes.

Enabling Measures:

In accordance with recommended anticipatory adjustments for students with disabilities or Specific Learning Difficulties, the following measures will be implemented:

- A list of topics to be covered, and a reading list, will be made available at the start of the module.
- Slides/handouts will be available on Blackboard in advance of class (at least a week where possible) as editable files. Minor changes to these materials might be made before class.
- Formatting of these materials will follow guidelines for dyslexia, visual discomfort conditions and Specific Learning Difficulties. This includes use of sans serif fonts, minimum font sizes and spacing, left justification, use of bullet points and other structural markers, and use of pale coloured backgrounds for Powerpoint slides.

Further specific adjustments will be made, where possible, when supported by Student Support Recommendations provided by Enabling. When it is not possible to implement a recommendation the lecturer will discuss alternative arrangements with the student(s) concerned. If you believe that a recommendation provided by Enabling is not being addressed, please alert your Personal Academic Tutor or the Philosophy Senior Tutor.

Important dates:**NOTE: ASSESSMENT DATES ARE PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING****APPROVAL FROM EXAMS OFFICER**January 2024Mon 29th Semester 2 begins; *Philosophy consultation week*February 2024Mon 5th Philosophy teaching beginsThu 15th Essay questions available by this dateMon 26th Feedback week beginsMarch 2024**Thu 14th Essay submission deadline 4pm via Blackboard (TO BE CONFIRMED)**Fri 22nd Group presentation topics available by this dateMon 25th Teaching pauses; Easter break beginsApril 2024Mon 15th Deadline for return of essay marks and feedbackMon 22nd Easter break ends; Teaching resumes**Mon 22nd – Fri 26th Group practice presentations (formative) (TBC)**May 2024**Fri 3rd In-class group presentations (First set) (summative) (TBC)****Fri 10th In-class group presentations (Second set) (summative)(TBC)**Mon 13th *Philosophy revision week*Mon 20th Exam period beginsJune 2024Fri 7th Exam period endsMon 10th Deadline for return of group presentation marks and feedback

Readings:

The Required Reading represents the minimum reading expected for each week. Further reading is highly recommended. Required readings will be available on the online Reading List (available via Blackboard or via [this link](#)), and listed in the schedule of topics below. Additional readings will be available on the online Reading List.

There are a few volumes that you will find generally useful, and from which many of the readings are taken. These are:

- 1) Tom Beauchamp & R.G. Frey (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 2011
- 2) Lori Gruen, *Ethics and Animals: An Introduction (2nd Ed.)*, Cambridge University Press, 2021
- 3) Kristin Andrews & Jacob Beck (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds*, Routledge, 2018
- 4) Susan J. Armstrong & Richard George Botzler (eds), *The Animal Ethics Reader (2nd Ed.)*, Routledge, 2008

All are digitally available via the online Reading List, except for the Animal Ethics Reader, which is available in hard copy at the UoS library.

Schedule of topics:Week 1: Consultation Week

No classes or reading this week.

Week 2: Introduction – why study animals?

What is animal ethics? Why is it interesting/important to study animals and our relationships to them?

Required reading: Lori Gruen, 'Why Animals Matter', *Ethics and Animals: An Introduction*, pp. 1-43

TOPIC ONE: Theories of Animal Ethics – Weeks 3-5

Why do animals matter? What are our duties toward other animals? What are some of the key ethical theories that can guide our interactions with animals?

Week 3: Utilitarianism and animals

Required reading: Peter Singer, 'All Animals are Equal', *Ethics in Practice (5th Ed)*, pp. 181-189

Week 4: Animal rights

Required reading: Tom Regan, 'The Case for Animal Rights', *Ethics in Practice (5th Ed)*, pp. 201-206

Week 5: An ethic of care for animals

Required reading: Josephine Donovan, 'Feminism and the Treatment of Animals', *Signs*, 31(2)

TOPIC TWO: Studying Animal Minds

What sorts of minds and cognitive abilities do nonhuman animals possess? How do we find out about other minds? What are the challenges of the sciences of animal minds?

Week 6: Animal sentience

Required reading: Heather Browning & Jonathan Birch, 'Animal Sentience', *Philosophy Compass*, 17(5)

Week 7: Animal rationality

Required reading: Matthew Boyle, 'A Different Kind of Mind', *Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Animal Minds*, pp. 109-118

Week 8: Animal personhood

Required reading: Sarah Chan & John Harris, 'Human Animals and Nonhuman Persons', *Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, pp.304-331

EASTER BREAK**TOPIC THREE: Applied Animal Ethics – Weeks 9-12**

What are some of the most common ethical problems that arise in human interactions with animals? What are the key theories and principles that can help us make decisions about specific types of animal use?

Week 9: Animals in research

Required reading: Hugh LaFollette, 'Animal Experimentation in Biomedical Research', *Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, pp. 796-825

Week 10: Captive animals

Required reading: David DeGrazia, 'The Ethics of Confining Animals', *Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, pp. 738-768

Week 11: Wild animals

Required reading: Mikel Torres, 'The Case for Intervention in Nature on Behalf of Animals', *Rel.: Beyond Anthropocentrism*, 3(33)

Week 12: Philosophy revision week

No required reading this week.