

IDH 3005/6 4007/4008: Animals and Society

This course investigates the relation and relationships between animals and humans. Animals have been treated as partners, tools, weapons, spare parts, food, and dearest friends over the course of human history and prehistory. What leads to a relation in which some animals are considered meat machines and others share our beds every night? We will take a decidedly interdisciplinary approach to the topic – drawing from anthropology, biology, history, philosophy and psychology, to name just a few. An integral part of this course requires off-campus visits to animal facilities and sanctuaries. Some Wednesdays will require hours beyond class time.

This Honors seminar can satisfy either the third year (IDH 3005 and IDH 3006) or fourth year (IDH 4007 and IDH 4008) Honors requirement.

******Important****:** Field trips are an important and mandatory part of the course. Students should have reliable means of transportation to all field trips. Students are encouraged to car pool. I will try to facilitate this by maintaining a class website with the emails and phone numbers of students. Park entrance fees (such as the zoo) and elsewhere are part of the course supplies for this course, just as textbook might be. For all field trips (except for the Center for Great Apes), we will meet at the off-campus location. Students will be responsible for paying their entrance fees at field trip sites.

Instructor:

Bennett Schwartz, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Office: DM 283; office phone 305-348-4025; email: schwartb@fiu.edu

Office hours: Monday: 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Class Session:

Meets Wednesdays; 10:00 – 12:45

Classroom: TBA

Required Books

Fall and Spring:

The Animal Ethics Reader. Edited by Susan Armstrong and Richard Botzler (2003)

Spring

The Whale Warriors. By Peter Heller

Assorted other readings will be made available on-line. The limited number of books is to help keep costs down, given you will have to pay admission on field trips.

Grading

Fall 2009

Class Participation: 30%

Quizzes 30%

Midterm paper or Visual media presentation 30%

Project Proposal 10%

Spring 2010

Class participation 30%

Quizzes 20%

Individual projects 50%

Fall 2009 Grading

1. Class participation (30%):
 - includes being on time and staying for the entire class.
 - appropriate classroom behavior – cell phones off; laptops shut, etc.
 - attending as many field trips as possible.
 - asking intelligent questions and making intelligent comments in class.
 - asking intelligent questions at field sites and to guest lecturers.
2. Quizzes (20%): These will be given at the beginning of selected classes (see schedule). They are relatively easy and designed to determine if you are keeping up with the reading. They will be short and multiple-choice. If you miss class that day or come to class late on a quiz day, you will not have the opportunity to take that quiz. Missed quizzes can be made up by short essays reviewing the reading assignments covered by the missed quiz. (roughly 1000 words).
3. Midterm paper (30%). This will be a short paper (2000 words) involving library research beyond assigned reading. But the topic must relate to the readings from the first semester in some way, although you have a great deal of latitude in what you cover. Please get approval for your topic before you begin your midterm paper. The topic must be different than your project proposal topic. Topics may include: “The treatment of animals in zoos in the 19th century,” “Classification of big cats based on cladistics,” “The horse as an instrument of war,” “The fight to

assure great apes basic rights,” etc. In other words, you may slant your topic to your individual interests OR:

Visual Media presentation (30%): This project may be done in groups of one, two, or three students. No groups larger than three will be permitted, and two (2) is recommended over three. You can choose any visual media – photography, video, drawing, sculpture, or even theatre. Films or plays should be no longer than 5 minutes. The visual media presentation should either concern 1) your idiosyncratic impression of the animal facilities you visit, or 2) visual journalism at another animal site – that you may choose to visit on your own. This should not just be a personal record of your wonderful dog; they need to have a larger point. Your visual media presentation should make a point about some aspect of animals and society (e.g., we need to take better care of our pets, wildlife is rapidly dwindling, people can be cruel to animals, animals have rights too, the bonds between humans and animals, etc.). All media presentations will be shown during class time.

4. Project Proposal (10%): Much of your spring semester (and spring semester grade) will be based on an individual project. By the end of the first semester, you should have a 100 word abstract, a 1000 word proposal, and a five-minute spoken presentation concerning what your spring term project is going to be. Although the proposal will only be 10% of your fall grade, your project will be 50% of your spring grade.

Spring 2010 Grading:

1. 1. Class participation (30%):
 - includes being on time and staying for the entire class.
 - appropriate classroom behavior – cell phones off; laptops shut, etc.
 - attending as many field trips as possible.
 - asking intelligent questions and making intelligent comments in class.
 - asking intelligent questions at field sites and to guest lecturers.
2. Quizzes (20%): These will be given at the beginning of selected classes (see schedule). They are relatively easy and designed to determine if you are keeping up with the reading. They will be short and multiple-choice. If you miss class that day or come to class late on a quiz day, you will not have the opportunity to take that quiz. Missed quizzes can be made up by short essays reviewing the reading assignments covered by the missed quiz. (roughly 1000 words).
3. Project (50%). This will be an extensive individual research project. The research may be directed at any aspect that can broadly fit into the category “animals and culture.” Thus, you could look at the history of chicken farming, the care and cultivation of farm salmon, stopping the illegal trade in animal parts for folk medicine, the campaign to preserve a particular species of endangered animal, the financial upkeep of an animal sanctuary, the treatment of animal actors, the marketing of pet food, etc. This project will require library research, probably some investigative work ---either visiting farms, animal sanctuaries or perhaps interviewing officials or scientists involved in the area. It may involve

activism or community service if that is relevant. Document all of your research – both library and investigative; you must turn that in, in addition to the written report. You will be required to write a 2500 – 5000 word paper based on your research (the length will be determined by the project). You will also be required to do a 10-minute presentation. Students are encouraged to begin work on this project early so that they can present it at SRAI.

Grading Scale

A = 90 and above; A- = 88 – 89; B+ = 85 to 87; B = 80 to 84; B- = 76 to 79 C+ = 70 to 75; C = 65 to 69; C- = 60 to 64; D = 55 – 59; F = < 55.

Schedule

Fall 2009

Week 1: August 26: Intro to course/syllabus; get to know each other.

Week 2: September 2: the history and ethics of zoos; Quiz on reading.

Reading: 443 – 490.

Week 3: September 9: Guest speaker Isabel Sanchez; Miami Seaquarium

Week 4: September 16: Field trip # 1: Miami Metro Zoo (just class time); meet at zoo (main entrance) at 10:00 a.m.

Week 5: September 23: Field Trip #2: Palm Beach Zoo. Meet at zoo entrance at 10:30.

Week 6: September 30: Our closest cousins: primates; taxonomy and evolution

Quiz on primate reading.

Reading: pp. 125 – 145.

Week 7: October 7: Apes, minds, and science; Guest Lecture: Professor Megan Hoffman, Georgia State University

Week 8: October 14: Field trip #3: Center for Great Apes (all day trip).

Week 9: October 21: course issues; midterm paper, visual media project, proposals.

Week 10: October 28: Animal Rights; Quiz on Reading

Reading: Armstrong and Botzler (pp. 15 – 64)

Week 11: November 4: November 11: Hunting and Ethics

Quiz on Reading.

Reading: p. 383 – 310.

Week 12: November 11: The science of big cats

Week 13: November 18: Field trip #4: PantherRidge Conservation Center (8 to 12)

Week 14: November 25: NO class; thanksgiving holiday

Week 15: December 2: proposal presentations

Finals week: additional presentations

Spring, 2010

Week 1: January 6: Introduction to new semester;

Week 2: January 13: Whales and Dolphins:

Guest lecturer: Jennifer Lewis, Department of Biology

Reading pp. 152 – 174. Quiz.

Week 3: January 20: Field trip #1 Miami Seaquarium

Week 4: January 27: Field trip #2: Dolphin Research Center

Week 5: February 3: Guest Lecture: Pete Heller

Reading: The Whale Warriors. Quiz.

Week 6: February 10: Animals in the home

Reading: pp. 499 - 536. QUIZ

Week 7: February 17: Field Trip #3: FRIENDS Horse Rescue

Week 8: February 24: Animal conservation and local fauna

Reading: pp. 422 -444.

Week 9: March 3: Field trip #4 the Everglades (Shark Valley)

Week 10: March 10: Guest lecture: ARFF representative.

Week 11: spring break

Week 12: March 24: meet with Dr. Schwartz individually

Week 13: March 31: class resumes; Summary, what we've learned

Week 14 April 7: class presentations

Week 15: April 14: class presentations

Finals week: additional presentations

*The schedule is subject to change, depending on the availability of guest speakers. Some field trip dates are not confirmed yet. Hopefully, more field trips will be arranged.

For your Information: Florida animal facilities (in no particular order nor is this complete). Some we will visit; some you may choose to visit on your own.

Center for Great Apes

Pelican Sanctuary

Palm Beach Zoo

Florida Hawksbill Project

Big Cat Rescue – Tampa

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary

Lion Country Safari

Lemur Conservation Center

Panther Ridge Conservation Center

F.R.I.E.N.D.S Horse Rescue (Pembroke Pines)

Dolphin Research Center

Turtle Hospital - Keys

Everglades – Shark Valley

Miami Seaquarium

MetroZoo

Flamingo Gardens

Suncoast sanctuary

Disney Animal Kingdom

Miami Seaquarium

Monkey Jungle

Parrott Jungle

McCarthy's wildlife sanctuary

<http://www.westpalmbeach.com/attractions/mccarthyswildlifesanctuary/index.html>

Miami Science museum – Bird of prey center

Everglades Animal farm

Classroom Conduct

1. Please be polite and respectful to the professor or the guest lecturer, and to other students.
2. Once class has started, there should be no whispering or talking, other than questions or comments addressed to the entire class.
3. All electronic devices, including cell phones, must be silent during class-time. Please be aware that most “vibrating” ring-tones, while supposedly silent, are audible to just about everyone.
4. Students are expected to be prompt. Coming late to class is not acceptable. Coming late when we have a guest speaker is forbidden.
5. Students, once in class, have made an obligation to attend the entire class.

FIU Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Misconduct includes: Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not.

Plagiarism – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Academic Integrity

Please read all information on the following link. Registration in this course requires an acceptance of The Honors College Policies for students

http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_standing.html.

In this learning community, we are expected to act as moral beings governed by a sense of ethics. These ethics are outlined in the [University Code of Academic Integrity](http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html) (www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html) and the Honors College policy on plagiarism (http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html). In simple language, in this course you will not cheat, misrepresent others' work as your own (plagiarism), or lie to the instructor or others in this learning community. One act crossing that boundary and you will be recommended for expulsion from the Honors College.

The Honors College at FIU Plagiarism Policy

Honor in Honors. In The Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

Academic misconduct is a violation of the University Code of Standards, the Code of Academic Integrity, the ethical relationship between the student and the academic community, and especially between the student and the instructor. It is the responsibility and prerogative of the instructor to make an initial determination about the extent and severity of an instance of academic misconduct; the instructor may opt to make a referral for further adjudication in appropriate cases.

Plagiarism . This Policy views plagiarism as one form of academic misconduct, and adopts the definition of the university’s Code of Academic Integrity, according to which plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s works without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Term papers acquired online or from other sources;
- Copying of original material without attribution;
- Use of other students’ work;
- Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

Availability of Information. All Honors students are expected to know what constitutes academic misconduct and to be willing to abide by all university policies on academic

conduct and integrity. In order to facilitate this, The Honors College will prominently post and distribute information and links on these policies, and will strongly encourage students to review the Code of Academic Integrity, which is part of the FIU Student Handbook.

Faculty of The Honors College will:

Describe in or link to their syllabi information about the academic conduct policies of the University, the College, and the instructor, and
Provide clear statements defining plagiarism and cheating in their syllabi.

Procedures and Penalties

Procedures. Charges of Academic Misconduct may be brought against an Honors student by an Honors faculty member. If the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct, within one week of the discovery of the suspected act the faculty member will hold an informal meeting with the student in order to inform him/her of the allegation(s), provide any evidence available, and allow the student to respond.

The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>.

The student will have the right to appeal the outcome of the meeting with the instructor within one week of the faculty's decision, when the decision is to pursue informal resolution or file formal resolution charges. The appeal will take the form of a letter to the Dean outlining the circumstances of the case and the reason for the objection to the professor's recommendation. The Dean or his designee will examine the case and make a final determination about the pursuit of Informal Resolution or the filing of formal resolution charges.

Penalties . An Honors College student found responsible for plagiarism or other academic misconduct by informal resolution or formal resolution will receive an F in the relevant Honors course, and will be dismissed from Honors by the Dean, effective from the end of the semester in which the infraction occurs. Dismissal will be in writing and will entail the loss of all privileges and benefits of being in The Honors College, and the student will not be readmitted to The Honors College. The decision of the Dean will be final. This decision relates solely to the student's status in The Honors College and does not affect the student's right to appeal the original faculty decision.

The penalty of dismissal from The Honors College may apply to academic misconduct in any course within Florida International University and not only to courses offered by The Honors College. In the case of courses outside The Honors College, the Dean of The

Honors College will rely on the Office of the Provost for notification about the infraction(s). More stringent penalties, such as dismissal from the university, may be pursued through the university's established academic misconduct process.

This Policy follows the University Academic Misconduct Procedures of the Code of Academic Integrity, with modification to provide for appeal within The Honors College.

Other issues.

Religious observances. Every effort, where feasible and practical, will be made to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be out.

Physical, mental and sensory challenges . Every effort, where feasible and practical will be made to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations contact your instructor or the Disability Resource Center if not done so already. Given the our field trip will involve walking outdoors in hot weather, students with physical disabilities should discuss their limitations as soon as possible with the professor.