Hum/En 25 The Human Animal, Preliminary syllabus for spring 2023
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This course asks a simple question: what makes humans different from (all other) animals?
We will look at various responses to this question and develop our own perspectives through readings from the Middle Ages through the twentieth century: the era when ideas such as the animal soul and animal rights were increasingly debated. Literary examples from this historical time period will be coupled with more contemporary philosophical perspectives. We will also devote some class time to working on basic challenges of the writing process, from taking notes and forming an outline, to creating an argument and developing a style of writing.

Course requirements:
- In-class attendance
- Perusall comments (this is a collaborative pdf annotation app)
- Homework assignments (two, around 1,000 words each)
- Final project (individual or collaborative; this will have a presentation and essay component)

Note:
- We will be using a grading contract, where your grade is scaled according to work completed.
- There might be some slight changes made to the syllabus between now and the first day of the quarter, but they will not result in an increased workload.

April 4   Introduction

April 6   Melanie Challenger, *How to Be Animal*

April 11   Ovid on the human/animal divide: *Metamorphoses* (selections)

Two bestiaries

April 13   T. H. White, *The Book of Beasts* (selections) + virtual Getty exhibit

April 18   Jean de la Fontaine, *Fables* (selection)

Female Animals

April 20   David Garnett, "Lady into Fox"

April 25   David Garnett, "Lady into Fox"

April 27   Karen Russell, "St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves"

Kafka's Menagerie

May 2   Josephine the Singer

May 4   Report for the Academy

May 9   The Burrow

The Human/Animal Experiment

May 11	H. G. Wells	*The Island of Dr. Moreau*
May 16	H. G. Wells	*The Island of Dr. Moreau*
May 18	H. G. Wells	*The Island of Dr. Moreau*

The Animal as Poem

May 23	Edgar Allen Poe on ravens
May 25	Rainer Maria Rilke on panthers and flamingos
May 30	T. S. Eliot on practical cats
June 1	In-class project work day
June 6	Project share
June 8	Project share + course review