The Human Animal
The concepts of the human and the animal share a long and complex history. The literature of the 16\textsuperscript{th} through 18\textsuperscript{th} centuries was a testing ground for radical new ideas that have come to shape our basic understanding of the human: what it means to be a thinking, speaking, and perhaps even autonomous subject. The question of what – if anything – makes us different from animals was debated from numerous points of view: including bestial men, humanlike beasts, and other creatures that defied the conventions of the time. This course revisits some of the key literary texts that shaped this debate and pays careful attention to their cultural environments. Readings will include selections from Cervantes, La Fontaine, Calderón, Montaigne, Rousseau, Swift, and Wollstonecraft as well as examples from popular songs and broadsides. Instructor: Holland