

Hum 075: The Human Animal

Professor: Jocelyn Holland (jholland@caltech.edu)

Winter 2018, T/Th 1:00 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.

Office hour: Th. 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and by appointment

This writing-intensive course asks a simple question: what makes humans different from (other) animals? We will look at various responses to this question and develop our own perspectives through readings from the Renaissance through the mid nineteenth-century, a time when ideas such as the animal soul and animal rights were fiercely debated. Literary examples from this historical time period will be punctuated with more contemporary philosophical perspectives.

Student activities will include short writing assignments, including one creative activity, and two essays. 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 Readings

Please purchase copies of the edition listed below. Readings listed on our course schedule are to be completed before coming to class.

- *Life is a Dream* by Pedro Calderón de la Barca (translator: Gregory Racz; publisher: Penguin Classics). ISBN: 0143104829.

All other readings will be available to photocopy, posted online, or distributed as handouts.

Class Policies

Attendance and Late Work: Attendance in this course is required. Your success in this course depends upon timely attendance and active participation. Multiple unexcused absences and late arrivals will result in a failing grade.

You may miss one class without penalty beyond any in-class work missed. Absence from class does not extend a due date. Late work is not accepted.

Formatting: Your papers should adhere to MLA formatting guidelines. I will help you with this in class and refer you to online sources that give you an easy overview.

Plagiarism: this includes both direct quotation and paraphrasing (summarizing) from internet or print sources without giving them credit. Because this class is to help you develop your own reading and writing skills, I do not expect you to consult secondary literature. All plagiarism cases will be reported immediately to the university administration.

Course site and email: Check our course website and your university email account regularly for important announcements. Be sure to use your school email for all course communication.

Electronic devices: Laptops are permitted for classroom purposes only. You will lose this privilege if you use electronic devices for personal use (e.g., emailing, texting, online browsing, etc.) during class. Please keep your cellphones silenced and stored away during class.

Course Requirements

All assignments must be completed in order to pass this course.

Written work: Students will write weekly readings responses (1-2 pages, typed, double-spaced, due on Tuesdays); a midterm paper (5 pages); and a final paper (5-7 pages).

- Weekly responses 20%
- Midterm Paper 25%
- Final Paper 25%
- Ovid projects (small posters)
- Participation* 20%

* Participation grades are determined from the following: timely attendance, in-class writing, quizzes, demonstration of preparation by responding to instructor's and peers' questions and posing questions of your own, and visiting office hours. Note: quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class. Late students will not be given additional time to complete a quiz.

Jan. 4	Introduction: a quick overview of a big topic	
Jan. 9	Cervantes: <i>The Dog's Colloquy</i>	
Jan. 11	Cervantes: <i>The Dog's Colloquy</i>	
Jan. 16	Theoretical perspective #1: Simondon, <i>Two Lessons on Animal and Man</i> (excerpt)	
Jan. 18	Jean de la Fontaine: selected fables	
Jan. 23	Jean de la Fontaine: selected fables	
Jan. 25	Theoretical perspective #2: Foucault, <i>History of Madness</i> (excerpt)	
Jan. 30	Calderón: <i>Life is a Dream</i> (act 1)	
Feb. 1	Calderón: <i>Life is a Dream</i> (act 2)	Midterm paper: due through email on Monday, Feb. 5th. Topics will be posted on course website by January 15 th .
Feb. 6	Calderón: <i>Life is a Dream</i> (act 3)	
Feb. 8	Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (Book 4)	
Feb. 13	Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (Book 4)	
Feb. 15	no class	
Feb. 20	Theoretical perspective #3: Derrida, <i>The Animal that Therefore I am</i> (excerpt)	
Feb. 22	Anna Laetitia Aikin "Mouse's Petition" (1773)	
Feb. 27	Handout: Overview of Animals in Nietzsche's philosophy	
March 1	Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , chapter 5 ("The Natural History of Morals")	
March 6	Final paper discussions	Final paper: Outline due on March 6th
March 8	no class	Email submissions: March 14th