

ANIMAL SCIENCE 2005

ROLE OF ANIMALS IN HUMAN HISTORY

COURSE SYLLABUS - SPRING 2017

LECTURE Mon, Wed, Fri, 9:35am – 10:25am (Period 3)

Room 155 Animal Science building

INSTRUCTOR Pascal (Toni) Oltenacu, DVM, PhD

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L.E. 'Red' Larson Building, Room 104E

Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE WEBSITE

This course will have an E-learning/Canvas webpage for readings, assignments, discussions, essay papers, messages and class announcements. All required reading materials will be posted on CANVAS. Please be sure that you are familiar with using Canvas. See their webpage for information and tutorials if needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course surveys the importance of animals through human history, from the prehistory to the present. The domestication of dogs, cats, major farm animals and some less familiar, such as camels, reindeer and buffalo and the role they played in different societies and cultures is discussed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

All human societies have been and are dependent on animals in multiple ways, from the food and materials to the labor and companionship they provide, all critical ingredients humans needed to develop the rich succession of civilizations. Tool making, acquiring of language and domestication of animals and plants are three major developments that changed humanity's way of life, facilitating the transitions from prey to predator, from hunter to herder and from herder to breeder, in short, from food procurer to food producer. Animals have played a major role in driving these and other developments by being central actors in human evolution, development of agriculture, spread of zoonotic diseases, and the functioning of ecosystems in which humans are embedded. Likewise, humans have greatly impacted the animals, affecting their evolution, the distribution of their populations, and the quality of their lives. In this course we will discuss the role of animals in connection with these developments and their contributions to human societies across time and space as well as how human-animal relationship have evolved over time in different societies and how these changes have affected both animals and humans.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how archeological evidence (material culture, faunal remains, etc.) are used to develop plausible hypotheses describing the human past (scavengers or power

scavengers, hunters or super predators, herders, sedentary hunters-gatherers or domesticators).

- Understand the role of domestication of animal species across human history, from food procurer (hunter-gatherer) to food producer (farmer).
- Recognize the nature of the relationship between humans and domesticates (mutualistic symbiosis), understand the diverse pathways that led to domestication (commensal, prey, or direct pathway) and appreciate the diversity of goods and services provided by domesticates.
- Understand the differences between a domesticated, a tamed, a dominated, a wild, or a feral animal.
- Understand behavioral characteristics that made some animal species suitable for domestication and why only so few were actually domesticated.
- Understand and discuss how domestication facilitated different modes of food production and made it possible for different human societies to develop (i.e., agriculture as a transformative process in human society).
- Critically assess the material and cultural significance of animals in different types of society and understand the importance of livestock for food and economic security of millions of people in the developing world today.
- Broaden students' global perspective as they are introduced to the values, attitudes, and norms that represent different contemporary cultures.
- Understand how and why the social values regarding animals have changed over time and why these values are different in developed urban societies dominated by industrial agriculture, relative to more rural societies in the developing world, that are more dependent on subsistence agriculture.
- Appreciate the economic, cultural and food security role played by locally adapted livestock breeds in many societies today and the need for conservation of these genetic resources.
- Understand the value of the knowledge and culture of the people that developed these environmentally adapted breeds and the importance of preserving these cultures.
- Explain how and why relations between humans and animals have changed over time and discuss the key social and ethical issues influencing how animals are viewed in contemporary societies.
- Understand the role of animals in human societies across time and space is critical as we contemplate how to feed a growing world population in a sustainable way.
- Seek and evaluate the quality and credibility of available information and logically assess the accuracy and sufficiency of available scientific evidence in order to develop an informed argument regarding an issue of relevance.

- Expand students' worldview and cross-cultural understanding by exploring the cultural and economic role of animals in traditional contemporary cultures outside the US.

GENERAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

ANS 2005 course satisfies humanities (H) and international (N) requirements for UF General Education Program and counts for three (3) hours of GE requirement.

Attendance Policy: All information regarding assignments and exams will be covered during the course of the lectures. **Attendance is strongly encouraged and students are responsible for all material covered in lecture.** It is highly recommended that you attend class if you expect to obtain a satisfactory grade. There will be **5 to 10 unannounced quizzes** during lectures (each worth 5 or 10 points) – none of these quizzes can be made up.

Writing assignments: There will be a shorter paper (1000 words) due mid-semester (100 pts) and a longer paper (1500 words) toward the end of the semester (150 pts).

There will also be 6 assignments based on reading material posted on Canvas (30 points each, lowest one will be dropped). Dates and all other information for papers and assignments will be announced in class.

Grading of the papers and writing assignments: The grade for your papers and writing assignments are determined by your instructor. The papers will be graded using a matrix. There will be **deductions** based on meeting deadlines (**5 points/day**). It is possible to score a negative grade for these papers. A poorly written paper and turning in late could earn a negative grade. For papers as well as the writing assignments it will be a closing date beyond which papers or assignments will not be accepted.

Policy on Missed Examinations: In order for an exam absence to be excused, you must make arrangements with the instructor **prior** to missing an exam. Requests must be in writing on standard paper. In case of an emergency, you may send an e-mail and turn in your written request **within 1 week**. **All** make-up exams should be made up **within ONE week** of the scheduled exam. Grades not made up within **ONE** week will be assigned a zero. **Missed unannounced lecture quizzes cannot be made up.** If this is a problem for you, please see me first week of classes while you can still drop the class if we cannot work the problem out.

Grading Policy

2 Exams (100 pts each)	200 pts
Mid-term paper (100 pts)	100 pts
Final-term paper (150 pts)	150 pts
6 assignments (30 pts each, 1 will be dropped)	150 pts
5-10 Lecture quizzes (5 to 10 pts each)	<u>25-75 pts</u>
	625-675 pts

Letter grades will be assigned based upon the following scale:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = < 60%.

It is possible that a sliding scale will be imposed on the class but the scale would always be used to lower the number of points needed to achieve a grade rather than increase it.

University Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty: The expectation for all students in this course is that complete integrity will be demonstrated at all times. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be a grade of zero. Penalties may be much severe, however, and may include a grade of “F” for the entire semester and a recommendation for additional disciplinary action by appropriate University officials. You should be aware that both “taking” and “giving” improper assistance during quizzes or examinations constitutes academic dishonesty. The papers and writing assignments will be screened for plagiarism using turnitin software and penalized accordingly.

On days when a quiz or an exam is completed, students will be required to exhibit behavior that leaves no question about their intent to be honest.

Special Needs: If any member of this class feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodation of any nature whatsoever, the instructor will work with you and the Disability Resource Center to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of such disability and the desired accommodations at some point before, during or immediately after the first scheduled class period. There can be no retroactive accommodation and testing.

The instructor will be available for students. Please make arrangements to visit at your convenience. **The best method to reach me is through e-mail. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL EXAMINATION TIME!**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Papers and exams - preliminary schedule (tentative dates)

Mid-term paper: *Guns, germs and steel* (100 points): ~ 1,000 words

Feb 8: watch DVD (Mandatory attendance)

Feb 22: Final paper due

Final-term paper: *Massai today* (150 points): ~ 1,500 words

March 22: watch film (Mandatory attendance)

April 12: Final paper due

Exam 1: **March 17** (in class)

Final exam: ??

Modifications to syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the semester with verbal or written announcements in class. It is the student’s responsibility to stay apprised of such announcements.