ANS 397 81W (CRN 28213): Public and Personal Relationships with Animals

Spring 2024
Meeting Times: Asynchronous
Meeting Location: Zoom/D2L

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Brooke Clemmons
Office Location: Office 2020, 8750 Campus (Dallas)
Office Hours: By appointment
University Email Address: Brooke.Clemmons@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: email**
Communication Response Time: 48 business hours (I respect your weekends and holidays – please respect mine)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Course materials: All powerpoints, lectures, and other materials will be posted on D2L prior to or within 24 hours of class.

Course Description

This course delves into the multifaceted impact of human-animal relationships on various aspects of society, exploring the public and personal connections humans have with animals. Through the examination of different types of relationships, students will analyze the portrayal of animals in media, literature, and fiction, and its influence on public perceptions and interactions with animals. Students will address questions such as why certain animals are kept as pets, how animal portrayal in media affects perceptions, and how fiction shapes human-animal interactions. By exploring the intersection of human-animal relationships and media, this course aims to enhance

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

students' critical thinking and understanding of the complexities surrounding our interactions with animals.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze the impact of human-animal relationships on various types of relationships humans have with animals.
2. Evaluate the role of media and fiction in shaping public perceptions of different animals.
3. Understand the factors influencing the choice of animals as pets and companions.
4. Critically assess the portrayal of human-animal interactions in literature and media.
5. Apply interdisciplinary approaches to explore the intersections of human-animal relationships and society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

Course material will be delivered in a variety of manners, **recorded** lectures and activities, assigned reading materials, and other activities. Knowledge and skills will be assessed using a variety of methods including worksheets, discussion posts, papers, and other activities. See the grade distribution breakdown below and the schedule for further clarification. This course will be offered as a **completely asynchronous, online course that will have due dates for assignments throughout the semester.** All assignments will be posted on D2L. Additional information about exams and assignments will be provided prior to the upload of those assignments. **It is imperative that you check D2L multiple times per week as well as your school-designated email in order to receive timely information and remain up to date on the course.**

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

In order to be successful in the course, students will need to ensure that they *actively* participate in the course, including any online activities or discussions; thus attendance and completion of assignments is paramount. A good rule of thumb is that students should spend approximately 2-3 hours outside of class on the course material for every hour of face-to-face meeting time. If you have any questions at all regarding the course structure, material, or anything else related to the course, feel free to post the question on the discussion forum on D2L or email the instructor. **I can't help you if you don't ask for help!**

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% (900 – 1000 points)
B = 80%-89% (800 – 899 points)
C = 70%-79% (700 – 799 points)
D = 60%-69% (600 – 699 points)
F= 59% or Below (< 600 points)

Assignment	Point Value
Assignments	30%
Discussion Posts	20%
Projects	30%
Participation and Engagement	10%
Final Project	10%
Total	100%

Assessments

You will be graded on a combination of assignments, participation, discussion posts, projects, and a final project. Information regarding the assignments will be posted in D2L and emails will be sent to your school Leomail account.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

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Other Technology Requirements

You **MUST** have access to the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint, etc.) for this class. If you do not currently have these programs, you can receive them for free through the university by contacting CITE (see below). Assignments and your final project MUST be uploaded to D2L using a Microsoft Office document or PDF.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems **do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner**. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc. Additionally, all students **MUST** have the Microsoft Office Suite. This can be procured from CITE.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The BEST way to contact me is via email, and I will make every effort to return emails within 48 business hours. If I do not respond within this timeframe, please feel free to follow up with me. If you wish to meet with me, please contact me via email to set up a time to meet. I am available to meet via Zoom or face-to-face. If students wish to meet face-to-face, they must either provide proof of vaccination or where a face mask as I have members of my household that are unable to receive the COVID vaccine.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Your participation is required and expected for success in the course. In the event that you are unable to submit assignments on time, please let the instructor know **prior** to the assignment deadline and as soon as possible. Late homework/assignments will be accepted with a 10% penalty each day the assignment is late (including weekends) up to 50% off. Late work will not be accepted after 7 days after the assignment due date. Exams must be taken during the designated timeframe unless the student has a **university-approved excuse**.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

I take academic honesty incredibly seriously. Unless otherwise specified in the instructions or verbally in the lectures, you are not allowed to get any assistance from classmates or other people for work in the course. Unless otherwise stated, exams will be closed-note, closed-book exams. You will NOT be allowed to use ANY resource on the exam other than your own. Additional information about Academic Dishonesty can be found here:

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

AI use in course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

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The use of Artificial Intelligence in this course to complete assignments is prohibited unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Examples and Definitions of Academic Dishonesty

Below are examples of academic dishonesty from 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty Rules and Regulations from TAMUC:

"Academic dishonesty includes the commission of any of the following acts. This listing is not, however, exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be called academic dishonesty.

Clarification is provided for each definition by listing some prohibited behaviors.

ABUSE AND MISUSE OF ACCESS AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS: Students may not abuse or misuse computer access or gain unauthorized access to information in any academic exercise.
CHEATING: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise. Unauthorized materials may include anything or anyone that gives a student assistance, and has not been specifically approved in advance by the instructor.
COMPLICITY: Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.
FABRICATION: Making up data or results, and recording or reporting them; submitting fabricated documents.
FALSIFICATION: Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
FORGERY: Making a fictitious document, or altering an existing document, with the intent to deceive or gain advantage.
MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS: Submitting substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.
PLAGIARISM: The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.
SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING GROUP PROJECTS: If someone in a group commits academic misconduct, the entire group could be held responsible for it as well. It is important to document clearly who contributes what parts to the joint project, to know what group members are doing, and how they are acquiring the material they provide."

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

Discipline is up to the discretion of the faculty member. Below are common first offense disciplinary actions as outlined by TAMUC:

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"The most common penalty imposed by a faculty member for a first violation is an "F" in the course.

Less severe penalties may be imposed if the circumstances warrant. Examples of lesser penalties include:
A grade reduction for the course
A zero on the assignment
A requirement to participate in extra requirements or training
Some combination of these"

Students with Disabilities--ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

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For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34/SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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RECOMMENDED COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Topic
1 (January 8 – January 14)	Overview of course and syllabus
2 (January 15 – January 21)	Types of relationships humans have with animals: companionship, agriculture, entertainment, etc. Ethical considerations in portraying animals in media and fiction
3 (January 22 – January 28)	Media's role in shaping public perceptions of animals
4 (January 29 – February 4)	Ethical implications of animal portrayal in media
5 (February 5 – February 11)	Exploration of how fiction shapes human perceptions and interactions with animals
6 (February 12 – February 18)	Analysis of animal characters in literature and their symbolic meanings
7 (February 19 – February 25)	Analysis of animal characters in literature and their symbolic meanings (continued)
8 (February 26 – March 3)	Factors influencing the choice of animals as pets
9 (March 4 – March 10)	Human-animal bond and its psychological benefits
10 (March 11 – March 17)	Spring Break – No Course Material
11 (March 18 – March 24)	Historical and cultural perspectives on pet-keeping
12 (March 25 – March 31)	Animal portrayal in advertising and entertainment industries
13 (April 1 – April 7)	Ethical considerations in using animals for entertainment purposes
14 (April 8 – April 14)	Examining works of fiction that explore animal-human relationships
15 (April 15 – April 21)	Critical analysis of ethical dilemmas presented in fiction
16 (April 22 – April 28)	Analysis of how media and fiction influence public attitudes towards animals
17 (April 29 – May 3)	Emerging trends in the portrayal of human-animal relationships in media
Finals Week (May 6 – May 10)	

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