

College of Arts

Course Code: PHIL *4040	Section: 01	Semester: W13
Course Title: Advanced Philosophy of the Environment: Naturalism, Normativity and the Ethical Treatment of Non-Human Animals		
Instructor: Dr. Victoria I. Burke		
Brief course Synopsis: Theoretical questions about the right way to treat non-human animals are as ancient as philosophy itself. Aristotle, writing in ancient Greece (circa 400-300 BC), is well-known for claiming that non-human animals lack reason or intellect, but that some animals are “intelligent.” Conversely, the Roman Stoics denied that any language, reason, virtue or real emotion could be attributed to non-human animals. <i>PHIL*4040 Naturalism, Normativity, and the Ethical Treatment of Non-Human Animals</i> will examine the ethical treatment of non-human animals through the history of philosophy, poetry, applied ethics, feminism, political theory, legal theory and ethical theory. We will examine the treatment of non-human animals in Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, Hume, Kant, Mill, Darwin, Hegel and Heidegger. What is the philosophical category of naturalism? How should we understand non-human animal flourishing? We will look at contemporary theoretical issues with respect to the moral status of non-human animals. We study applied ethical treatments of the various areas of practice in which humans use non-human animals. How does consideration of the ethical treatment of non-human animals lead to reconsideration of standard philosophical matters such as autonomy, perception, mind, language, subjectivity, and individuality? We will also examine the meta-ethical category of normativity itself. <i>PHIL*4040 Advanced Philosophy of the Environment: Naturalism, Normativity, and the Ethical Treatment of Non-Human Animals</i> will acquaint students with historical and recent ethical thought on non-human animals with a wide-range of applicability in the biosciences, humanities, and in everyday life.		
Textbook(s): Beauchamp, T, <i>et. al.</i> editors. <i>The Human Use of Animals: Case Studies in Ethical Choice</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-534-019-8 Photocopy packet of materials from Martin Heidegger, Carolyn Merchant, Martha Nussbaum, David Morris, Karen Houle, Hasana Sharp, Will Kymlicka, Michael Thompson, Giorgio Agamben, Walt Whitman, Jacques Derrida, and others		