FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Animals and Society (3 credits)

SYA 4675 CRN 16137

# Fall 2018

Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:50pm

BU 308

This course can be counted toward the Sociology major or minor.

**Instructor:** Dr. Gina Carreño-Lukasik **Office Hours:** Tues & Thurs 5-9pm

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**Prerequisites:**

Three previous Sociology courses at the 1000, 2000, or 3000 level or permission.

**Course Description:**

Welcome to sociology, an exciting way of viewing our world! We all participate in something bigger than ourselves – our individual experiences simultaneously affect and are affected by groups and institutions. Put simply, sociology is the study of human behavior in social context. What distinguishes sociology from other social sciences like psychology is its unique focus on how human beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors are being influenced and shaped by larger social structures and institutions that are themselves constantly reshaped by our actions. In this course we will examine what it means to “think sociologically,” to explore the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society. Specifically, this course examines the relationship between animals and society.

**Course Objectives:**

One objective of this course is to introduce you to the sociological perspective, the unique way of understanding that attributes our individual experiences to forces of the larger society (i.e., to the shared understanding and experiences of groups in distinct cultural, institutional, and political contexts). Another objective of this course is to give you the conceptual and methodological tools with which you can critically examine the issues related to the topic of Animals and Society.

By the time you finish this course, you should be able to:

1. Apply the sociological perspective to the study of animals and society
2. Understand the history of the animal-human divide
3. Explain the development and effects of humans as pets
4. Analyze the human use of animals in science, entertainment, food, and other areas
5. Understand the role of animals in assisting humans
6. Analyze the experiences of humans who work with animals
7. Analyze intersecting systems of oppression
8. Explain the development and effects of the Animal Rights Movement

As in any course, I hope that you will leave this class having learned some specific content. I also hope that in this course you will learn to question everything, and never to take “the way things are” for granted. The sociological perspective will show you that change is always possible.

**Course Procedures:**

People learn by discussing issues and sharing ideas. Therefore, I have an informal, interactive style of lecturing in which I urge you to ask questions and share your opinions. Class sessions will consist of lectures, videos, and group discussions. I expect everyone to attend class having read the assignment indicated on the syllabus because while I will do some lecturing, **I will rely on you to discuss the readings and videos at length during class**. Thank you in advance for your participation. ☺

I ask that you please raise your hand to speak and treat other students with courtesy and respect. Viewpoints on some of the topics we will cover in the course may vary greatly among students in the course; disagreement with the ideas of other students is welcome and encouraged but should be conveyed respectfully and in the spirit of open dialogue. Frequent tardiness, sleeping, talking, texting, etc. or laptop usage (other than for notetaking) will lower your participation grade. Please turn your cell phone off or on vibrate during class time. Please do not pack up your belongings or leave the classroom until you are dismissed. Since our class has so many students, I ask that you please keep your voices down. If you are consistently disrupting the class with your conversations, this is taking away from other students’ ability to learn. My goal as your instructor is to make sure that each of you has the opportunity to learn and succeed in this course. As a result, I will not tolerate these sorts of disruptions.

In this course I will be posting announcements, lecture outlines, assigned readings, and exam study guides into **Canvas.** You may access these sources by going online to <http://canvas.fau.edu> and clicking on our course, Animals and Society. I suggest that you print out the lectures and bring them to class so you can follow along.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **There will be an in-class midterm Exam, worth 25% of your grade.** This exam consists of multiple choice questions covering material from lectures, videos, readings, and class discussions. I will post a study guide into Canvas prior to this exam. You must bring a big blue scantron and a number 2 pencil to class the day of the exam. If you miss this exam, you may schedule a make-up only after you provide a physician’s note or documentation of emergency. The make-up exam must be completed within one week of the exam missed. Without proper documentation, you will receive a grade of zero for the missed exam.
2. **There will be a take-home Final Exam, worth 35% of your grade.** Guidelines for this take-home exam will be posted in Canvas.
3. **There will be three Book Reflection Papers, each worth 10% of your grade.** Guidelines for these papers will be posted in Canvas.
4. **Class Attendance and Participation is worth 10% of your grade.** I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a student in the class; I will not hand out my own lecture notes. Your attendance grade will come from you attending and participating regularly. Please see <http://www.fau.edu/provost/files/religious2011.pdf> and <http://www.fau.edu/provost/files/studentabsences.pdf> for a description of what constitutes an excused absence, for which you are not penalized.

In accord with university policy, absence from class will be excused for reasons that include religious observances, required and documented participation in a university-sponsored activity (such as athletic competition), and certain documented civic and military obligations. Students are expected to notify me **in advance** of these absences and they will be accommodated on an individual basis. Since these are planned absences that are known in advance, all assignments due the missed class day(s) must be submitted to me in advance of the absence.

You are allowed one unexcused absence with no grade penalty. For each additional unexcused absence, your attendance grade will drop one letter. For example, if you miss two unexcused absences total, your attendance grade is a “B,” and so on.

Please note that this part of your grade stems from not only attending, but also **participating** regularly. On many days we will spend our class period discussing a video or one of the assigned readings. During these days I will often ask you to write an **in-class reflection paper**. These papers count toward your participation grade. I expect everyone to fully participate on those days especially.

Thank you ☺

**Grading:**

Because grades are weighted, you must multiply the grade you received on that assignment by its weight.

I calculate course grades on a 100-point scale. These grades translate to the following letter scale:

92.45% - 100% = A 76.45% – 79.44% = C+ 60 – 62.44% = D-

89.45% – 92.44% = A- 72.45% – 76.44% = C Below 60% = F

86.45% – 89.44% = B+ 69.45% – 72.44% = C-

82.45% – 86.44% = B 66.45% – 69.44% = D+

79.45% – 82.44% = B- 62.45% – 66.44% = D

Although it is not my standard policy, I reserve the right to curve the final class grade.

Please note that in accordance with FAU policy, note that grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.

**Late Work Policy:**

Late work will be accepted with no grade penalty if the student has proper documentation, such as note from a doctor, etc.  In the event of no documentation, assignments turned in the class period after they are due will start at a maximum grade of B.  No assignments will be accepted after this time period.

**Office Hours and Assistance:**

I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss any problems, questions, or suggestions related to the class or to your progress. If you cannot make my office hours, please let me know and we can make an appointment to talk.

If you need to email me, in your email you must make sure you **include your name, the name of the class, and the class time** in order to receive a response. I will generally respond to emails within 48 hours during the week. Email responses will generally take longer during the weekends.

**Student Accessibility Services**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas/](http://www.fau.edu/sas/)

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center**

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

**The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)**

The University’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) offers resources that students may find helpful in improving their study skills and facilitating academic success. Their website is <http://www.fau.edu/ctl> I encourage you to visit this website and to make use of its many valuable resources, including especially “Tips for Success and Academic Resources” <http://www.fau.edu/ctl/TipsForSuccessAndAcademicResourcesStudentResources.php>

**Code of Academic Integrity:**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

**Syllabus Changes:**

I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus as deemed necessary. I will announce these changes during class meetings, as well as post these announcements into Canvas.

**Required Readings:**

There are 3 required books, available for purchase in the FAU bookstore:

*A Buffalo in the House.* 2007. Rosen. ISBN 9781595581655.

*Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat.* 2011. Herzog. ISBN 9780061730856.

*Understanding Animal Abuse.* 2012. Flynn. ISBN 9781590563397.

Please come to class having read the assigned readings for that day. Please plan accordingly to pace yourself with your reading. Our class discussions will be meaningful only if everyone keeps up with the assigned readings. Remember that 10% of your course grade comes from **Attendance and Participation**. You **must** attend class and do the readings in order to participate in our class discussions. Thank you.

**Date Topic Assigned Reading**

Tues Aug.21 Who is Gina and what will happen in this course? ☺

Thurs Aug.23 Sociological Perspective of Animals

Tues Aug.28 Video: “The Natural History of the Chicken”

Thurs Aug.30 Video Discussion: “The Natural History of the Chicken”

Tues Sept.4 History of the Animal-Human Divide

Thurs Sept.6 Animals as Pets

Tues Sept.11 Video: “Earthlings”

Thurs Sept.13 Video: “Earthlings”

Tues Sept.18 Video Discussion: “Earthlings”

**Thurs Sept.20 Book Discussion: “A Buffalo in the House;”** *A Buffalo in the House*

**Book Reflection Paper due**

Tues Sept.25 Animals in Science

**Thurs Sept.27 In-Class Midterm Exam**

Tues Oct.2 Video: “Project Nim”

Thurs Oct.4 Video: “Project Nim”

Tues Oct.9 Video Discussion: “Project Nim”

Thurs Oct.11 Animals in Entertainment

Tues Oct.16 Video: “Blackfish”

## Thurs Oct.18 Video Discussion: “Blackfish”

Tues Oct.23Animals as Food *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat*

Thurs Oct.25 **Book Discussion: “Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat;”**

**Book Reflection Paper due**

Tues Oct.30 Video: “Shelter Me”

Thurs Nov.1 Video Discussion: “Shelter Me”

Tues Nov.6 Animals Assisting Humans;

Working with Animals

Thurs Nov.8 Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Presentation

**Tues Nov.13** **Book Discussion: “Understanding Animal Abuse;”** *Understanding Animal Abuse*

**Book Reflection Paper due**

Thurs Nov.15 Animal Rights Foundation of Florida (ARFF) Presentation

Tues Nov.20 Intersecting Systems of Oppression;

Animal Rights Movement

Thurs Nov.22 Thanksgiving Break

Tues Nov.27 Video: “Unlocking the Cage”

Thurs Nov.29 Video and Discussion: “Unlocking the Cage”

**Thurs Dec.6 at 1:15pm in our regular classroom: Final Exam Due and Discussion**