

ARLT 100g

35219R

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11-11:50

VKC 210

Instructor: Michael du Plessis

Office: Taper Hall of Humanities 174

Office hours: Monday 12-1:30, Wednesday 2-3:30, or by appointment

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Course Description:

How have we as human animals told stories about other animals? This class will investigate through intensive readings of a variety of texts some ways in which animals have been conceptualized, imagined, and told. We will read a collection of African folktales, two graphic novels (*Pride of Baghdad* and *WE3* and one collection of comic strips (George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*), two texts that tell very differently stories from the point of view of dogs (*Flush* and *Timbuktu*), the short stories and novellas of Franz Kafka, H. G. Wells' early science fiction novel, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, and J. M. Coetzee's mixture of fiction and criticism in *The Lives of Animals*. We will contemplate critically the diversity of ways of thinking and telling animals.

Course Goals:

- * to familiarize ourselves with a range of selected key texts that represent animals, insects, and other sentient biological forms in a wide range of ways
- * to learn to read texts in terms of both an overall problematic and detail
- * to consider how the human/animal distinction has been established, blurred, reinforced, or questioned
- * to articulate our understandings in clear, logically organized, and well-supported college-level prose, whether in class discussions, exercises, exams or essays

Course Grades:

A mid-term and a final exam; one 3-page paper and one 4-page paper, quizzes and in-class exercises will determine your final grade. Informed engagement in class is, of course, a prerequisite.

Mid-term exam, Wednesday, October 16, in class:	20%
Final exam, December 11, 2013, in our classroom, 11a.m.-1 p.m.:	20%
3-page paper, due in class as a hard copy, Wednesday, September 25:	20%
4-page paper, due in class as a hard copy, Wednesday, November 20:	25%
In-class exercises (unannounced or announced):	15%

Required Texts:

- Auster, Paul. *Timbuktu*. New York: Picador, 2009. **ISBN-13:** 978-0312428945.
- Berger, John. "Why Look at Animals?" In *About Looking*. By Berger. New York: Pantheon Books, 1980. 1-26.*
- Coetzee, J. M. *The Lives of Animals*. Princeton University Press, 2001. **ISBN-13:** 978-0691070896.
- Kafka, Franz. *The Complete Stories*. New York: Schocken, 1995. **ISBN-13:** 978-0805210552
- Herriman, George. *Krazy & Ignatz 1919-1921: "A Kind, Benevolent and Amiable Brick."* Fantagraphics, 2011. **ISBN-13:** 978-1606993644.
- Mandela, Nelson, edited. *Favorite African Folktales*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2002. **ISBN 10:** 0-393-32624-1.
- Morrison, Grant, and Frank Quitley. *WE3*. New York: DC/Vertigo, 2011. **ISBN-13:** 978-1401230678.
- Wells, H.G. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. New York: Dover, **ISBN-13:** 978-0486290270.
- Woolf, Virginia. *Flush*. Mariner Books, 1976. **ISBN-13:** 978-0156319522.
- Vaughan, Brian K. *Pride of Baghdad*. New York: DC/Vertigo, 2008. **ISBN-13:** 978-1401203153

*Available as PDF on Blackboard.

NOTE: I may add, from time to time, more short pieces for your reading. These will be posted on Blackboard and you will be notified well in advance of their posting.

More about the Class:

Students are expected to read all assigned readings and participate in and contribute to class discussion. Student writing is an essential part of learning in this class.

In the case of both papers, students may choose to revise and resubmit a paper for a different grade. I strongly encourage rewriting as part of the student learning process.

I will provide you with sets of guiding questions for each set of texts studied and you may develop one of these questions as a topic for a paper. You are also welcome to develop your own topics about our readings in consultation with me. You must complete all the assignments and the exams in order to pass the course.

The first paper should be 3 pages long, the second 4. Both papers should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and a 12 pt. font.

All assignments must be submitted as hard copies in class on the date due. Late papers will be penalized except in the case of illness or family emergency (in which case you must contact me as soon as possible and be prepared to document the emergency).

Late papers will have half a grade point subtracted for each week (and part of a week) they are late. Please get in touch with me as soon as possible if your work, for whatever reason, is late.

There will also be unannounced in-class writing exercises in the course of the semester, so be prepared. If you miss one of these exercises, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

About the papers:

Write your name and the title of your paper at the top of the first page.

All papers must have titles.

You should number pages.

Spell check and proofread adequately.

All papers must cite the texts used—and that includes the copy of the text we have studied in class. You must learn to document all sources. Half a grade point will be subtracted for missing bibliographies. Please make sure that you cite all secondary material and present bibliographical information according to either the guidelines of either the Modern Language Association or Chicago.

You have the option to revise and resubmit the papers once, after consultation with me.

Please submit the papers as hard copies in class on the dates due.

Late papers will have half a grade point subtracted for each week (and part of a week) they are late.

Some basic dos and don'ts:

Keep up with the reading schedule and plan ahead.

Come to class prepared to discuss the day's text and bring to class the text we're discussing.

Keep up with handouts and other class notes.

Avail yourself of my consultation times and schedule at least one consultation this semester!

Be punctual; class will always begin on time.

Consult the reading schedule often and make note of any changes as announced.

Do not miss class; unexcused absences will have an impact on your final grade.

Do not leave class before the end.

Do not request extensions for papers or alternate dates for exams.

And **never** turn in written work that is not strictly your own.

Student Behavior

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. These strictures may extend to behaviors outside the classroom that are related to the course.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

http://www.sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:

<http://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at:

<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Course Outline:

Looking at Animals

Week 1

Monday, August 26: Introduction, Rainer Maria, Rilke, “The Panther” (in-class handout).

Wednesday, August 28: John Berger (on Blackboard).

Friday, August 30: Vaughan (please the entire novel; it doesn’t have page numbers or chapters).

Week 2

Monday, September 2: LABOR DAY: no classes.

Wednesday, September 4: Vaughan, continued.

Friday, September 6: Wells, Chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-16). (NOTE: the reading load for Wells is light—please start reading *Krazy Kat* since our reading load will be relatively heavier.)

Week 3

Monday, September 9: Wells, Chapters 6-11 (pp. 16-41).

Wednesday, September 11: Wells, Chapters 12-17 (pp. 41-78).

Friday, September 13: Wells, Chapters 18-22 (pp. 79-104).

Animal Fables

Week 4

Monday, September 16: Herriman, pp. 16-100.

Wednesday, September 18: Herriman, pp. 101-133.

Friday, September 20: Herriman, pp. 134-170. (Sukkot)

Week 5

Monday, September 23: Morrison and Quitley (please read the whole book).

Wednesday, September 25: Mandela, "The Enchanting Song of the Magical Bird," "The Cat Who Came Indoors," "The Great Thirst," pp. 17-27. Please read the Foreword as well, pp. 13-16.

3-page paper due in class as a hard copy in class.

Friday, September 27: Mandela, "King Lion's Gifts," "The Message," "The Snake Chief," "How Hlakanyana Outwitted the Monster," "Words As Sweet As Honey from Sankhambi," "Mmutla and Phiti," "The Lion, the Hare, and the Hyena," pp. 28-66.

Week 6

Monday, September 30: Mandela, "Spider and the Crows," "The Hare and the Tree Spirit," "The Mantis and the Moon," "The Snake with Seven Heads," pp. 79-109.

Wednesday, October 2: Mandela, "The Hare's Revenge," "The Wolf Queen," "Wolf and Jackal and the Barrel of Butter," "The Cloud Princess," "The Guardian of the Pool," pp. 110-120 and 128-147.

Friday, October 4: There will be a guest lecturer for this class, full details to be arranged in advance, so please check class announcements and Blackboard.

Humans and Other Hybrids

Week 7

Monday, October 7: Kafka, "The Metamorphosis," pp. 89-109.

Wednesday, October 9: Kafka, "The Metamorphosis," pp. 110-139.

Friday, October 11: Kafka, "A Crossbreed [A Sport]," "The Cares of a Family Man," pp. 426-429.

Week 8

Monday, October 14: Kafka, "Jackals and Arabs," "The Vulture," "A Little Fable," pp. 407-410, 442-443, 445.

Wednesday, October 16: **Mid-semester exam.**

Friday, October 18: Kafka, "The Burrow," pp. 325-360.

Week 9

Monday, October 21: Kafka, "The Burrow," continued.

Wednesday, October 23: Kafka, "A Report to an Academy," "A Report to an Academy: Two Fragments," pp. 259-262.

Friday, October 25: Kafka, "Investigations of a Dog," pp. 278-316.

Week 10

Monday, October 28: Kafka, "The Village Schoolmaster [The Giant Mole]," pp. 168-182. "Josephine the Singer, or the Mouse Folk," pp. 360-376

Wednesday, October 30: There will be a guest lecturer for this class, details to be announced. Begin Coetzee.

Thinking Animals

Friday, November 1: Coetzee, "The Philosophers and the Animals," pp 15-46.

Week 11

Monday, November 4: Coetzee, "The Poets and the Animals," pp. 47-69.

Wednesday, November 6: Coetzee, Garber, pp. 73-84.

Friday, November 8: Coetzee, Singer, pp. 85-92.

Week 12

Monday, November 11: Coetzee, Doniger, pp. 93-106.

Wednesday, November 13: Coetzee, Smuts, pp. 107-120, and Gutman, 3-11.

Animals as Narrators

Friday, November 15: Woolf, Introduction, pp. vii-xvii, Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-43.

Week 13

Monday, November 18: Woolf, Chapters 3-4, pp. 47-106.

Wednesday, November 20: Woolf, Chapters 5-6 and Notes, pp. 165-177.

4-page paper due in class as a hard copy.

Friday, November 22: Auster, Chapter 1, pp. 3-46.

Week 14

Monday, November 25: Auster, Chapter 2, pp. 47-83.

Wednesday, November 27: THANKSGIVING.

Friday, November 29: THANKSGIVING.

Week 15

Monday, December 2: Auster, Chapter 3, pp. 84-113.

Wednesday, December 4: Auster, Chapter 4, pp. 114-158.

Friday, December 6: Auster, Chapter 5, pp. 159-181.

Final exam, December 11, 2013, in our classroom, 11a.m.-1 p.m.