

# POLITICAL ANIMALS

## Species, Class, Race, and Gender

GESM 130 – Instructor: Dr. Luísa Reis Castro  
Mondays and Wednesdays | 3:30 – 4:50 PM

Humans are animals. But what does it mean to be an animal? Or what does it mean to be human? How are categorizations and contestations about animality and humanity defined and experienced across different contexts and historical periods?

This course will introduce students to thinking critically about relations between humans and other animals, with a special attention to power structures. And how can non-human animals offer a unique window to discuss pressing issues such as health, conservation, food, scientific research, climate change, etc.?

As a result of this course, students will gain the skills to analyze the social, cultural, and historical relationships between humans and other species. Further, we will reveal and interrogate how our relationships to non-human animals shape and are shaped by our relationships to each other.