

## **Abbreviated Course Syllabus**

### **OT 340: Animal and Human Interconnections in Daily Life Fall 2023 (Section 48050)**

**Class Day:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Class Time:** 2:00-3:20 pm

**Location:** SOS B44

**Instructor:** Ashley Uyeshiro Simon, OTD, OTR/L

**Email:** [uyeshiro@med.usc.edu](mailto:uyeshiro@med.usc.edu)

**Office:** THH B4

Contact me with any questions! I love chatting with students 😊

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the various interconnections between humans and animals in different cultural contexts. Many of the occupations (or meaningful activities that *occupy* our time) we do on a daily basis include interactions with nature and animals, including food, entertainment, work and jobs, and health promotion (for humans and/or animals alike).

#### **COURSE HIGHLIGHTS!**

- Lots of furry “guests”
- Service-based final project, where you volunteer with an animal-focused organization, ask them what they need help with, and present what you did!

#### **REQUIRED READING**

- 1) All articles/readings are available through the USC library and are posted on Blackboard. There are no required books for this class.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of grade</b>
<b>Weekly Journals</b> Reflecting on how the content for the week applies to your own life.	30%
<b>Student-Facilitated Discussion</b> Create an agenda and facilitate class discussions around a given topic.	20%
<b>Service-based project (completion and presentation)</b> Secure and complete a volunteer project that benefits animals, and present on your project (individually or in small groups)	30%
<b>Final Reflection on service project</b> Culminating reflection on the service project that was completed during the semester.	10%
<b>In-class participation</b>	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Course introduction and overview
	What is Occupational Science, and why is it relevant to human-animal interconnections?
2	Why do we feel bonded to animals? History and psychophysiology
3	One Health: A Syndemic approach
	Possible field trip!
4	Animals in human education and development
5	Orientation for Westside German Shepherd Rescue (for 12 people) Others: USC Peace Garden trip
	Orientation for anyone else Others: USC Peace Garden trip
6	Animals used in entertainment
7	Working animals/Animals with jobs
8	Food and sustainability
	No class – Fall Break
9	Health for people: Pets and emotional support animals
	Health for people: Therapy animals
10	Health for people: Therapy animals
	Health for people: Service animals
11	Health for people: Service animals
	Possible guest speaker
12	Health for animals: Adoption/fostering, rescue
	Health for animals: Conservation Possible guests from LA Zoo
13	Co-healing and health: Prison dog programs

	Co-healing and health: Rescue dog stories and co-regulation
14	TBD
	No class – Turkey Day!
15	Project presentations
	Project presentations
Finals week	Final reflection due on Blackboard

***Note: In order to optimize the learning experiences, the course instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus as needed throughout the semester.***

Please reach out with any questions! Can't wait to have you in class.

Ashley Uyeshiro Simon, OTD, OTR/L

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Check out our other Occupational Science courses here!

<https://classes.usc.edu/term-20233/classes/ot/>