

Abbreviated Course Syllabus

OT 340: Animal and Human Interconnections in Daily Life Spring 2024 (Section 48050)

Class Day: Mondays & Wednesdays
Class Time: 2:00-3:20 pm
Location: THH 114

Instructor: Ashley Uyeshiro Simon, OTD, OTR/L
Email: uyeshiro@med.usc.edu
Office: THH B4
Contact me with any questions! I love to chat 😊

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” and Guest Speakers
- Service-based main project, where you find an animal-focused organization, ask them what they need help with, and then volunteer with them throughout the semester!

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

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week | Topic |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Course introduction and overview What is Occupational Science, and why is it relevant to human-animal interconnections? |
| 2 | A history of human-animal interconnections Possible field trip: LA Natural History Museum |
| 3 | One Health: A Syndemic approach Why do we feel bonded to animals? Psychology, psychophysiology, and the role of oxytocin |
| 4 | Animals in human education and development |
| 5 | Orientation for volunteer sites Possible field trip: to USC Peace Garden |
| 6 | Animals used in entertainment |
| 7 | Working animals/Animals with jobs |
| 8 | Food and sustainability |
| 9 | Health for people: Pets and emotional support animals Health for people: Therapy animals |
| 10 | Spring Recess! |
| 11 | Health for people: Therapy animals |
| 12 | Health for people: Service animals Health for animals: Adoption/fostering, rescue |
| 13 | Health for animals: Conservation Co-healing and health: Prison dog programs |
| 14 | Co-healing and health: Rescue dog stories and co-regulation |
| 15 | Presentation working day |

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| | |
| 16 | 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

uyeshiro@med.usc.edu

Check out our other Occupational Science courses here!

<https://classes.usc.edu/term-20241/classes/ot/>