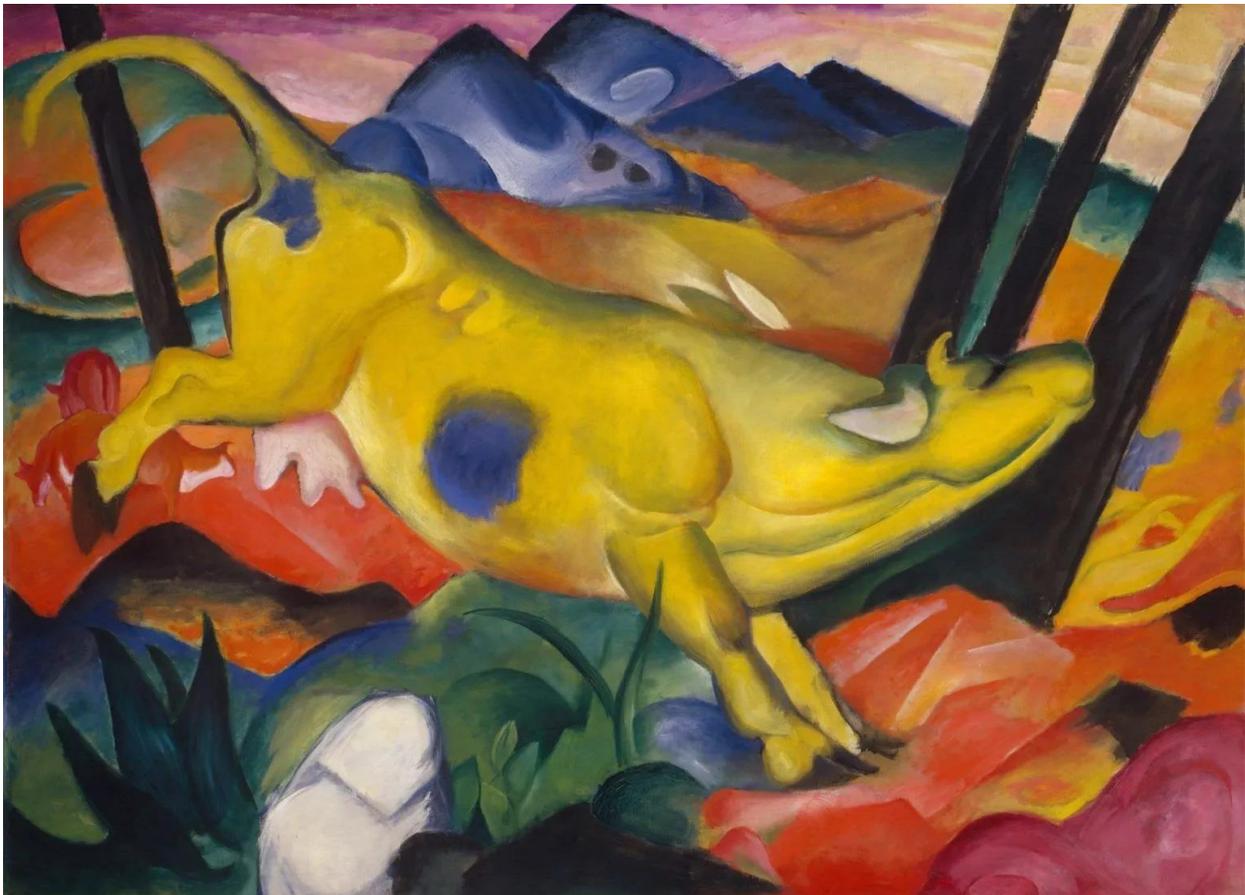


GESM 120g Fall 204

Mia du Plessis

Course Description:

How have we humans, as human animals, made sense of our relation to other animals? How has that “sense” demonstrated itself in works of the imagination, in language and in images? How have philosophy, fiction, non-fiction, film and the other visual arts enabled telling ourselves stories about our difference from or our sameness to other animals? By examining very different kinds of texts and genres, such as philosophy, fiction, fantasy, fables, folktales, autobiography, painting, and film and video, this class aims to identify and analyze diverse ways to think about and “tell” stories, whether philosophical, personal, religious, scientific, political, and fantastic about animals. We will see the extent to which animals are central to human culture. Moreover, the phrase “telling animals” suggests that animals also may have something to say, something to tell. In this course, then, we will probe the dynamics of power in images and stories of animals. Can animals exceed or escape or overturn the stories, images and concepts in which humans have tried to capture them?



Franz Marc, *Yellow Cow*, oil on canvas, 1911.