

HIST 413
Special Topics in History:
Animals and Environment
SPRING 2024

Lecture: Tuesdays, 16:00 – 19:00; **Santral-E2.302**

Course Instructor: Cihangir Gündoğdu, **Santral-E2.310**; gundogducihangir@yahoo.com

Office hours: by appointment

This course provides an overview of the history of nonhuman animals, examining their interactions with humans and the environment from a global perspective. The aim of the course is to challenge the idea of human exclusivism by presenting students with a diverse range of readings from various disciplines and perspectives. Additionally, the course introduces students to the major studies, names, and topics of Animal History and Studies and familiarizes them with the theoretical and methodological challenges of the field.

Upon successful completion of the course:

- Students will have developed the ability to recognize the significance of nonhuman animals in history and history writing,
- Comprehend the development of the animal history discipline,
- Understand the major theoretical and methodological debates in the field,
- Appreciate the importance of interactions between humans and non-human animals,
- Identify nonhuman animal temporality and agency.

Assessment:

The students enrolled in this course are expected to complete and submit their assessments on time. Late submissions will be evaluated accordingly.

Attendance and Participation	%10
Quiz	%10
Book Introduction	%15
Midterm	%30
Final	%35

Midterm and Final Exams: Midterm and Final exams are **in-class examinations** written in English. In the examinations, the students will be asked to answer the questions provided.

Course Readings: The readings for the course and the assignments for each week will be provided through Bilgi Learn.

Book Introduction: The students enrolled in this course must compose a one-page introduction to a recent academic work on the history of animals, human-animal relations, or

human impact on animals. To complete this assignment, students will first need to identify and obtain instructor approval for a relevant academic study. Once approved, they can begin developing their introduction. The deadline for the book selection is the 3rd week of the course.

Tips for writing an effective book introduction:

1. Begin with a powerful sentence that captures the reader's attention.
2. Share critical details about the book, like the title, author, organization, and contents.
3. Emphasize what makes the book unique and intriguing to read.
4. Use clear and concise language to convey your message effectively.

Technology in Class: Electronic gadgets (e.g., cell phones, tablets, computers, and voice/image recorders) are not allowed during lectures and classes. Students caught using such devices will be asked to leave the class.

The use of Google Translate or any other artificial intelligence software, such as ChatGPT, in any course assignments, including research papers, response papers, and take-home assignments, is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary actions, as detailed in the Rules and Regulations section.

Bilgi Learn & Email: It is important that the course instructor and teaching assistant are able to communicate with all students effectively. To ensure this, please update your email address on your Bilgi Learn account to one that you regularly use. By default, your Bilgi student email address will be used. However, if you do not use this account frequently, please make sure to change it to an email address that you do use. Please note that you will be held responsible for any information communicated by the professor or the teaching assistant via Bilgi Learn and email.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Please take note that plagiarism is a serious offense. It includes copying from books, journals, or the internet, as well as duplicating the work of fellow students. We will discuss this in class early on during the semester. If you are still uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please speak with the instructor before starting on the first assignment.

Please be aware that any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a range of disciplinary actions, from receiving an F for the assignment to getting an F for the course. Furthermore, disciplinary action may be taken, and the Disciplinary Committee will determine the penalty, which may include the dismissal of the student from the University.

Course Readings:

- Hilda Kean and Philip Howell, eds., *The Routledge Companion to Animal-Human History*, 1st ed. (Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2018).
- Linda Kalof, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Studies* (New York, NY: OUP USA, 2017).

Suggested Reading:

- Sezai Ozan Zeybek, *Türkiye'nin Yakin Tarihinde Hayvanlar: Sosyal Bilimleri İnsan Olmayanlara Açmak* (İstanbul: Notabene Yayımları, 2020).

Course Weekly Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction: Aims and Scope of the Course [February 20, 2024]

Reflections on the students' personal relationships, interactions, and experiences with animals, as well as their motivations for taking this course.

Week 2 -Why do nonhuman animals matter? [February 27, 2024]

Read: Frans de Waal, *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* (W. W. Norton Company), pp. 1-28; Oxana Timofeeva, *The History of Animals: A Philosophy*, (Bloomsbury Academic), 9-27; 45-60.

Watch: *Explained: Animal Intelligence* (Season 2 Episode 3)

Week 3 -Animal History [March 5, 2024]

Read: Susan Nance, Animal History: The Final Frontier? *The American Historian*, November 2015, 28-32; Erica Fudge, "The History of Animals in Present Moment," *Humanimalia*, 13.1 (Fall 2022), 254-264; David Garry Shaw, "A Way with Animals," *History and Theory*, 52, 4, 2013, 1-12; Eric Baratay, "Building an Animal History," in *French Thinking About Animals*, ed., Louisiana Mackenzie and Stephanie Posthumus, (Michigan State University Press, 2015), 3-14.

Week 4 -Theory and Methodology I [March 12, 2024]

Read: Hilda Kean, "Challenges for Historians Writing Animal-Human History: What Is Really Enough?" *Anthrozoös*, Vol. 25, 57-72; Erica Fudge, "What was it like to be Cow? History and Animal Studies," in *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Studies*, ed., Linda Kalof, (Oxford University Press), 258-278; Etienne Benson, "Animal Writes: Historiography, Disciplinarity, and the Animal Trace," in *Making Animal Meaning*, ed., Linda Kalof (Michigan University Press, 2011).

Week 5 - Theory and Methodology II [March 19, 2024]

Read: Chris Pearson, "Dogs, History and Agency," *History and Theory*, (December 2013), 128-145; David Gary Shaw, "The Torturer's Horse: Agency and Animals in History," *History and Theory*, Vol. 52, No. 4, 146-167; Jason Hribal, "Animals, Agency, and Class: Writing the History of Animals from Below," *Human Ecology Review*, (2007), 101-112.

Watch: *My Octopus Teacher*, directed by Pippa Ehrlich and James Reed (2020), 1 hour 25 minutes.

Week 6 -Colonialism and Animals [March 26, 2024]

Read: Jonathan Saha, *Colonizing Animals: Interspecies Empire in Myanmar*, (Cambridge University Press, 2022), 51-82; Lance Van Sittert, “Class and Canicide in Little Bess: The 1893 Port Elizabeth Rabies Epidemic,” *South African Historical Journal*, 48, no. 1 (2003): 207–34.

Midterm Week: March 30 – April 7, 2024

Week 7 - Industrialization and Animal Labor [April 16, 2024]

Read: Jason Hribal, “Animals are part of the Working Class: A Challenge to Labor History,” *Labor History* 44, no. 4 (2003): 435-453; Clay McShane and Joel A. Tarr, *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), 57-83.

Week 8 - Nationalism and Animals I [April 30, 2024]

Read: Aaron Skabelund, “Animals and Imperialism: Recent Historiographical Trends,” *History Compass*, 2013, 801-807; Sandra Swart, “The other Citizens: Nationalism and Animals,” in *The Routledge Companion to Animal-Human History*, ed., Philip Howell and Hilda Kean, (Routledge), pp. 31-52; Aaron Skabelund, “Breeding Racism: The Imperial Battlefields of the “German” Shepherd Dog,” *Society and Animals*, (2008), 354-371.

Week 9 - Nationalism and Animals II [May 7, 2024]

Read Gabriel N. Rosenberg, "No Scrubs: Livestock Breeding, Eugenics, and the State in the Early Twentieth-Century United States," *Journal of American History* 107.2 (2020), 362-387.

Week 10 - Animals in War [May 14, 2024]

Read: Gervase Phillips, “Animals in and At War,” in *The Routledge Companion to Animal-Human History*, ed., Hilda Kean and Philip Howell, (Routledge), 422-445; Gervasse Phillips, “Pigeons in the Trenches: Animals, Communications Technologies and British Expeditionary Force, 1914-1918,” *The British Journal for Military History*, (2018), 60-80; Philip Howell, “The Dog Fancy at War: Breeds, Breeding, and Britishness, 1914-1918,” *Society&Animals*, No. 21 (2013), 546-567; Elaine Walker, *Horse*, (Reaktion), 118-143.

Watch: Animals in the Great War (1 hour)

Week 11 - Animals and City [May 21, 2024]

Read: Jennifer Wolch, "Zoopolis," in *Historical Animal Geographies*, ed., Sharon Wilcox and Stephanie Rutherford, (Routledge, 2018), 53-72; Clare Palmer, "Colonization, Urbanization, and Animals," *Philosophy & Geography*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2003, 47-58; Chris Pearson, "Stray Dogs and the Making of Modern Paris," *Past and Present*, (2017), 137-172; Alan Mikhail, "A Dog-Eat-Dog Empire: Violence and Affection on the Streets of Cairo," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, (2015), 76-95.

Watch: Eating Animals Directed by: Christopher Dillon Quinn

Week 12 - Animals as Companions/Pets [May 28, 2022]

Read: Erica Fudge, *Pets*, (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008), 13-38; Ingrid Tague, "The History of Emotional Attachments to Animals," in *The Routledge Companion to Animal-Human History*, ed., Hilda Kean and Philip Howell, (Routledge), 345-366; Kathleen Kete, *The Beast in the Boudoir: Petkeeping in Nineteenth Century Paris*, (University of California Press), pp. 39-56.

Documentary: *The Hidden Lives of Pets - Intelligence* (Episode 1)

Week 13 - Animal Welfare and Protectionism [May 28, 2022]

Read: Hilda Kean, *Animal Rights: Political and Social Change in Britain since 1800*, (Reaktion Books), 70-95; Kathleen Kete, *The Beast in the Boudoir: Petkeeping in Nineteenth-Century Paris*, (University of California Press), 5-21; Will Kymlicka and Sue Donaldson, *Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights*, (Oxford University Press), pp. 19-69; Dorothy Brantz - The Domestication of the Empire in A cultural history of animals in the Age of Empire, vol 5. 73-93.

Documentary: *Unlocking the Cage*

Final Exams, 2-14 June 2024