

Reading Animal Lives in a Posthuman Age



Spring 2020

Dr. Rashidian

MW 11:00-12:15

English 438/538: This course will focus on the new field in literary studies dedicated to the examination of our culture's ideas about animal lives and where we as human beings stand in relation to those lives. A lot of work is being done to retrieve the histories of individual animals and species and to help us understand nonhuman subjectivities. The field contributes to a rethinking of how we share the planet with other living beings and sees nonhuman lives as having their own intrinsic worth. The specter of an impending great extinction has given added relevance to this new field. Our readings will explore our cultural ideas about animals, the new narratives of animal subjectivities and fictions that respond to anxieties caused by the threat of a sixth extinction.

This course is a Real-World Ready class that incorporates an experiential-learning component to supplement classroom instruction.