

LS 812: Contested Relationships between Humans, Ecosystems and Other-than-Human Animals

Summer 2021

Tuesdays

Dr. Stephen Duguid, Instructor

COURSE OUTLINE

As the 'environmental issue' becomes more pervasive in politics, economics and culture it becomes vastly more complex. Positions are staked out in support of animals, humans, and ecosystems – each with accompanying rationales, theories and arguments (e.g. ecofeminism, animal rights, deep ecology). Ethicists, Ethologists and Ecologists argue amidst and between themselves about where we should place our primary focus in trying to sort out what we should 'do' about issues like climate change, species extinction, habitat loss and animal welfare. In LS 812 we will explore these issues via a selection of core texts and the specific research projects each student undertakes.

Readings: In recent years there has been an explosion of popular and academic writing on environmental issues. Of specific relevance to this course will be readings in areas such as moral philosophy, environmental ethics, critical animal studies, posthumanism and ecofeminism. As the course develops and you begin to develop specific research interests, I will be suggesting readings relevant to those topics. As well, on several occasions we will discuss your individual research topics as a group so that others may suggest resources as well. The reading for the seminar consists of several core texts that we will discuss at some length in the seminars:

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (Oxford Univ. Pres, 1968) isbn 0--19-500777-8)

Neil Evernden, *The Natural Alien: Humankind and Environment* (Toronto, 2006) isbn 0-8020-7785-4

Kelly Oliver, *Animal Lessons: How They Teach Us to be Human* (Columbia UP, 2009) isbn 978-0-231-14727-9

Jason Moore, ed. *Anthropocene or Capitalocene?: Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism*, (Kairos PM Pr. 2016) isbn 978-1-62963-148-4

Rosi Braidotti, *The Posthuman* (Polity, 2013) isbn 978-0-7456-4158-4

Course Requirements:

The core requirement is a research paper on a topic to be decided upon by the 4th week of the term. The seminar time in Week 9 will be set aside for a full discussion of all of the research topics.

Each student will also be responsible for introducing one of the seminar readings.