Do animals have history? Yes, they certainly do; the circumstances of their lives, their interactions with other species, even their shared cultures, have changed significantly over time. And those changes have impacted human history as well. Animal pasts have been difficult for historians to uncover and to narrate, but they repay the effort by offering new and often surprising insights into our planet’s history. This seminar will give you the opportunity to try your hand at writing the history of an animal (or animals) of your choice, anywhere in the world. We will also be reading key works of animal history, from squirrels to sperm whales, from colonialism to communism. These works will help you think critically about animal history, to locate the most promising primary sources, and to fire your own historical imagination.
Course Requirements (407)

1. Attendance and participation (15%). You are expected to attend class and contribute substantially to discussion each week.

2. Class discussion leadership (5%). Each student will choose one week during which they will lead class discussion. This includes developing a list of at least 10 discussion questions to be shared with the class by 2:00 pm on Tuesday.

3. Peer review (5%). You will be review fellow students’ work in progress and provide comments on several occasions.

4. Research proposal (5%). A preliminary proposal (at least two paragraphs) and bibliography (at least 5 secondary sources and 5 primary sources) for your research paper. Due April 18.

5. Review of literature (10%). A review of the relevant secondary sources on your topic, explaining the primary arguments that already exist and where your analysis may fit in. At least two pages. Due April 28.

6. Draft introduction and thesis statement (10%). A polished and properly-cited draft introduction to the research paper that clearly expresses its main argument. At least two pages. Due May 12.

7. Sample section (10%). A 3- to 4-page portion of your final paper, concentrating on one aspect of your argument. The sample should be cited properly and edited for grammar and style. Due May 26.

8. Research paper (35%). A 12 – 15 page research paper that includes a substantial number of primary sources and develops an argument in conversation with existing secondary literature. As a rough guide, the paper should incorporate at least 5 primary sources and 10 secondary sources. Due June 10.

9. Research paper presentation (5%). You should present a summary of your final research paper along with any visual materials to class on June 7.
**Course Requirements (507)**

1. Attendance and participation (10%). You are expected to attend class and contribute substantially to discussion each week.

2. Introductory lecture (10%). You should choose one class during which you will provide a brief (20 minute) lecture giving undergraduate students a deeper understanding of the topic under discussion.

3. Peer review (5%). You will be review fellow students’ work in progress and provide comments on several occasions.

4. Review of literature (10%). A review of the relevant secondary sources on your topic, explaining the primary arguments that already exist and where your analysis may fit in. At least two pages. Due **April 28**

5. Draft introduction and thesis statement (10%). A polished and properly-cited draft introduction to the research paper that clearly expresses its main argument. At least two pages. Due **May 12**.

6. Sample section (10%). A 3- to 4-page portion of your final paper, concentrating on one aspect of your argument. The sample should be cited properly and edited for grammar and style. Due **May 26**.

7. Research paper (40%). A 20 – 25 page research paper that includes a substantial number of primary sources and develops an argument in conversation with existing secondary literature. As a rough guide, the paper should incorporate at least 10 primary sources and 15 secondary sources. Due **June 10**.

8. Research paper presentation (5%). You should present a summary of your final research paper along with any visual materials to class on **June 7**.
Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

🌸 = Required Reading

🎨 = Additional (optional) Reading

Week 1. March 31. What Is Animal History?


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**Week 2. April 7. Sources for Animal History**


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**Week 3. April 14. Research**

Meeting with University librarian Miriam Rigby and Special Collection librarian Linda Long

*Research Proposal Due April 18*
Week 4. April 21. Animals and Colonialism


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Adrian Franklin, Animal Nation: The True Story of Animals and Australia (Sydney: UNSW Press, 2006).


Anna Boswell, “The Sensible Order of the Eel,” Settler Colonial Studies


**Week 5. April 28. Animals, Extinction, Ethics**


**Review of Literature due April 28**


Week 6. May 5. The City and the Zoo


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**Week 7. May 12. Animals in War**

◊ Aaron Skabelund, Chapter 4 “Dogs of War: Mobilizing All Creatures Great and Small,” in *Empire of Dogs: Canines, Japan, and the Making of the Modern World*


*Intro and thesis statement due May 12*


Week 8. May 19. Animals and Socialism


- Olesya Turkina, Soviet Space Dogs (FUEL, 2014).


Sample chapter due May 26


Week 10. June 2. No Class

Final Exam Tuesday June 7. In-Class Presentations